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Japan

Japan: Former DFAA Head on Base Lease Renewal

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[Remarks by Noboru Hoshuyama, former director general of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency: "Clinton's Visit to Japan Demonstrated My 'Innocence'" — transcribed by editorial staff]

[FBIS Translated Text] *The Okinawa governor's refusal to sign by proxy for the forced expropriation of U.S. forces base land created a commotion. This was triggered by the incident involving the rape of a schoolgirl by U.S. soldiers which took place last September. The director general of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency [DFAA], Noboru Hoshuyama, reportedly criticized the prime minister in a so-called "off the record talk" with reporters and was forced to resign.*

At the U.S.-Japan summit meeting held on 17 April in Tokyo, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and President Clinton extolled the fact that the U.S.-Japan security treaty structure was important for the peace and stability of Asia and the Pacific. Also, prior to this meeting, Prime Minister Hashimoto and U.S. Ambassador Mondale agreed on the complete return of the Futenma Air Station on Okinawa to Japan "within five to seven years."

I believe these two events indicate that both countries, the United States and Japan, made a very realistic response and a significant decision. I feel keenly so, because, until I resigned from my post as director general of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency last year, I had been involved in security issues and Okinawa base issues. If Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama had not resigned and his administration had continued, such a success could not have been achieved.

What I note in the result of this U.S.-Japanese summit meeting is the fact that it made clear that they will promote the study of a U.S.-Japanese cooperative structure in time of emergency in the Far East.

Some people have viewed the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty as a one-sided obligation. That is because, although the United States has promised to come to the aid of Japan in time of emergency, when the United States is engaged in hostilities, no matter what the circumstances, Japan has not in turn promised to come to its aid. But treaties cannot endure under a relationship that involves a totally one-sided obligation. When such an argument [that the treaty is one-sided] is made, the following two points are omitted. First, is coming to another's aid in time of emergency the only way to satisfy a bilateral relationship obligation? The reality is not all that simple. There are many different ways to cooperate in time of emergency, as demonstrated by the monetary contribution made by Japan during the Gulf war. It is difficult to determine whether a monetary contribution satisfies an obligation in the bilateral relationship or not. Japan has not seriously discussed this issue so far, but there must be still other ways to make contributions.

Another point is that Japan's burden during peace time extends over an overwhelmingly long period, compared to an emergency for which no one can predict the timing of its occurrence. During peace time, Japan has been providing the U.S. forces with bases at no cost and, since 1978, has provided stationing support, so-called "consideration," such as taking over base workers' wages and rebuilding quarters. This has increased drastically from some period, and today, Japan has come to carry the burden of about 75 percent of the stationing expense of the U.S. Armed Forces in Japan.

This had become one of the causes in delaying the consolidation of the bases. When one receives things gratis, there is no incentive to rationalize and use them efficiently. One tends to become extravagant. Also, as for the portion which one no longer uses, no direct benefit will derive from returning it. As for landlords too, they will suddenly be in trouble because they can not collect the rent. In the process of defining Japanese responses in time of emergency, if the United States and Japan are to share such peace time expense, such a burden as the 75 percent share mentioned earlier will not be placed on Japan, and the consolidation of the bases may be accelerated. The Japanese reexamination of the US.-Japanese cooperative relationship could trigger progress on the base issue.

But even though an announcement was made this time that they will study U.S.-Japanese cooperation in the case of an emergency, it does not mean that the issue will be solved immediately. What is important is a concrete Japanese response in the future. After the Second World War, Japan has neglected to make efforts on how to be prepared for a crisis. As for a study on dealing with an emergency as well, in fact, the subject has been raised many times in the past. The Defense Agency had once hypothetically examined an emergency situation in Japan and in the Far East. As for the topic of an emergency in Japan, they made some progress in the study, but a condition was attached that they were not to get into concrete measures such as legalization and budget. As for the topic of an emergency in the Far East, they could not obtain cooperation from other ministries, and the holding of meetings was as far as they went. Even to conduct a study was impossible up until now.

If they are to examine each issue concretely, they must go into areas which are outside the framework of the past study of the emergency law. For instance, it has to cover issues such as: In an emergency, how may days will be needed to transport the U.S. forces to their destination, the ownership of the land provided, and even consideration of flush toilet facilities for the soldiers. Until now, even providing legislation enabling the Japanese Self-Defense Forces and the U.S. forces to operate smoothly together in case of an emergency in Japan was stopped by prime ministers on the grounds that it was premature. The administration cannot do anything under such conditions.

The Greatest Problem in the Post War Era

As long as the politicians leave this problem at the administrators' level, no solution will be found. Strong leadership from the politicians is required to deal with issues which always touch off discussion, including those of the right of collective self defense and the interpretation of the Constitution. In order to promote the study of U.S.-Japanese cooperative relations in an emergency, unless we promptly discern the limits of a response by the administrators and let the legislative body make a timely decision, whatever we promise could end up as an empty promise. In this sense, we can say that the Hashimoto government has made a decision to tackle the greatest issue of post-war Japan.

What is feared is that this will be treated as a political dividing line. But the issue of national defense, even if not at 100 percent, at least in its fundamental elements should be advanced in concert. One can also say that, for that to happen requires the politicians' leadership. Moreover, every time the right of collective defense has come up as a topic, extreme media reports have been made, such as: In an event like the Cuban crisis, would Japan go to the assistance of the United States and would the Japanese Self-Defense Forces join and fight with a multinational force. Such reports have kept the issue far from reaching a solution.

The lack of the politicians' leadership and the misguided reports by the mass media were revealed in a very unfortunate way by the Okinawa base problem from last year till this year.

We should place value on the fact that the total return of the Futenma Air Station was agreed this time. But we must note that it comes with the attached condition of a transfer of functions. When it is interpreted in what has been the context, reduction as the result of the consolidation of the Okinawa bases, the key for the future remains unchanged: How to obtain the understanding and cooperation of the Japanese people for the enormous relocation expense and for the replacement location, especially how to obtain the cooperation of the inhabitants of the place to which movement is taking place. As for this point, there has not been any definite answer yet. Moreover, the consolidation, merger, and reduction movement and the issue of the governor's signature in the process of obtaining usage rights for base land should be considered separately. The former is an issue of policy at the stage of moderating between disputing parties, an issue for the legislative body. The latter is an issue of administrative process, based on existing law. Even if in the former case a claim is justly supported, the violation of law is not permitted in a country governed by law. Some in the mass media report as if the illegal action of Governor Masahide Ota's refusal to sign and the action of the "illegal occupation" situation advanced the situation. But such a view gives the wrong idea about the root of the base issue. Still it is also true that, even within the government, there are many people who do not have any comprehension of the base issue.

"Illegal Occupation" Could Have Been Avoided

I am certain that, if the Murayama government had made the correct response when Governor Ota took his stand of refusal to sign by proxy for the resisting landlords, many of the problems such as "illegal occupation" which arose later could have been avoided. The previous cabinet could not handle domestic issues very well; two balls were thrown from Okinawa Prefecture. The government threw one of them to the United States and, belatedly, it took another to court. As the government changed, both the United States and the court correctly threw these balls back. The new cabinet handled this skillfully, and threw them once again to Okinawa Prefecture. The key to the solution of the problem depends on to what degree Okinawa Prefecture will cooperate in the facilities' transfer and so on. The balls are back where they started.

I assumed the post of director general of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, by chance, the day after the inauguration of the Murayama government. Since the Okinawa reversion, I had been interested in base issues on Okinawa, so I was aware that I would have to serve in a difficult period as director general of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency. Needless to say, naturally, the greatest pending question was the acquisition of land-use rights in accordance with the "Special Land Measure for Military Stationing." On the other hand, I felt that it was fortuitous that I served as the director general under the Social Democratic Party [SDP] government, because I thought that my idea, which was to advance the bases' consolidation, merger, and reduction, basically matched SDP thinking.

When I visited Okinawa in September, right after I assumed my post, and spoke at a news conference, saying "I want you to accept the bases and to change to a direction of coexistence," the SDP made a very strong protest. If they had listened to or read the entire news conference, they would have understood my true intention that "the bases' complete withdrawal is de facto impossible, but we want actively to promote consolidation. We will make an effort to create a better situation than what exists today, so when the facilities are to be moved, we want you to cooperate. The new facilities should be something you can coexist with." Clearly it was a misunderstanding, but it was demanded that I apologize and withdraw the comment. As I think about it, I was fortunate that this took place at a news conference. The notes and record of the news conference were kept. In the end, it was settled in an ambiguous way in which I withdrew a portion of my comment in a "political horse trade." I think it might have had something to do with the fact that the SDP's central leadership and its regional powers were fighting over the security issue.

My coexistence comment created emotional and unconstructive disagreements, but a trusting relationship has also emerged. The operation to further the cooperation of prefecture, cities, towns, and villages toward limiting land use continued. I tried to find out what Governor Ota had been thinking. As a result, from Governor Ota's comments and so on, I came to believe firmly that he was strongly seeking some kind of solution on the so-called three items: "Return of Naha Port facilities," "termination of parachute training at the Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield and return of that facility," and "the termination of live-fire training over Prefectural Highway 104." After a number of unofficial contacts, by the end of the year before last, I was able to get a good feel for the situation. At that time, he requested the return of the Northern training area, and I promised unofficially to study it.

It so happens that in the following January, the U.S.-Japan summit meeting between Murayama and Clinton was to be held. It was believed to be a golden opportunity to raise the issue of Okinawa. The efforts by concerned people in the United States and Japan had come to successful fruition, and at the summit meeting, President Clinton showed a positive posture toward solving the three items. Prime Minister Murayama was also pleased. In the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, the "Headquarters for Promotion of Consolidation" was set up. In February, Tokuichiro Tamazawa, then director general of the Defense Agency, visited Okinawa and sounded out a solution plan with Governor Ota. In May, at the U.S.-Japan Defense Leadership Conference, a concrete plan for the return of Naha Port and Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield was agreed. I would say that these were messages that the Japanese Government would advance the consolidation of bases in an orderly fashion, while the prefecture would attempt coexistence with the bases. At that point, both prefecture and national government correctly recognized the contents of the message.

While consolidation was being advanced at the working level, operations were also going on side by side on the proxy signing. In May, the Defense Facilities Naha Bureau began the fourth land use process, and also Prime Minister Murayama approved the land use. At that time, I think the prime minister understood very well that it was Japan's duty under the terms of the U.S.-Japan security treaty. As for the proxy signing, due partly to reporting in the mass media and so on, it especially drew attention this time. But, in fact, the number of people refusing to renew their leases for base use had declined. When the landlord himself refuses, under the law the mayor of the city, town, or village is to sign as his proxy. This practice has increased. Compared to the third round of lease renewals in 1991, it has been going much more smoothly. I think it was around June when Governor Ota must have sounded out his supporters about the proxy signing. There were people who were laying the groundwork. I was getting to feel that we would be successful in getting the signatures.

Some in the mass media were reporting so as to give the impression that the ones who refused to sign for the land record were in the majority of land owners. This report is far from the real situation with the land owners. There are about 32,000 land owners who lease their land for the bases. Of those, about 29,000 signed themselves, and the remaining 3,000 refused to sign. Of those, 2,824 are said to be the "co-owner of one tsubo [approximately 4 square yards]" who intentionally own a small piece of land for purposes of political protest. Essentially, 113 genuine landlords refused to sign. The ones who refused to sign were only a small portion of the land owners. The area of their land is also extremely small. The mass media should cover such reality in depth and report it fairly. If they report on such parties as if they are the majority, this causes great misunderstanding.

At any rate, both the plan for the base consolidation and the proxy signature went on smoothly. In July, we began to take soundings on the governor's proxy signature, but he delayed accepting the necessary documents, giving all sorts of excuses. Finally, in early August, he decided to accept on 21 August the request for proxy signatures involving 31 people who had refused to sign themselves. As for the proxy signature, ordinarily, the governor himself does not sign as proxy, but only has to order the signing. Yet he kept delaying things, with one excuse after another, so that the Defense Facilities Administration Agency was frustrated by such an attitude on the part of the governor.

And 4 September came. Right after the rape incident happened, a message came in from a staff member in the local Facilities Administration Bureau. As for the incident itself, I felt unspeakable anger as a Japanese. I still cannot find words to console the sadness of the people concerned. I could understand the Okinawan people's anger. But the response from the officials of the prefecture was such that I thought I could expect them to regard the proxy signing as something separate from the incident. But as the incident was getting greater coverage, public opinion turned in a direction where we, the administrators, could no longer control things: The existence of the bases was wrong. The Status of Forces Agreement should be changed, and so on. While I still could not come up with any effective solution about the signing, I had to go to the United States to talk about the base issues. In the United States, we made an inroad on one remaining item out of three items, the live-fire artillery exercises over the prefectural highway. I thought we had cleared one of the obstacles lying in front of the proxy signing. But I was let down when I saw the note I was handed when I arrived in Narita on the afternoon of 28 September. The note said that Governor Ota at the prefectural assembly said that he refused to sign the proxy. I was sorry that the Defense Facilities Administration Agency's effort up to that time had not been appreciated.

On the following day, after I made a report regarding my visit to the United States, I was directed to fly to Okinawa in order to demonstrate the government's sincerity. When I arrived on the last flight of the day, the mass media's coverage was incredible. I could not find anything but critical information there. Back in Tokyo, I reported the situation to Prime Minister Murayama and others told me to continue talking with Okinawa, but the Defense Facilities Administration Agency did not have any material which could lead to the solution by talking.

At that time, I think there was hardly any one in the Prime Minister's Official Residence who had an accurate grasp of the situation. People such as the chief cabinet secretary, Koken Nosaka, said that the SDP would also try, but the SDP which shared the same kind of mentality with the governor could not possibly persuade him. Although they were groping for ways to come to a solution, the governor and his people probably thought that they did not accurately understand the significance of the governor's statement that "it is not a conditional struggle." The governor probably thought this was a manifestation of the fact that they did not understand the true nature of the issue. The Liberal Democratic Party, perhaps out of the awkwardness in connection with the gubernatorial election, seemed to have kept its distance from the SDP.

There Was No Course Left To Take

I did not have any other course left to take. However much I tried, unless the prime minister did not advise the governor to sign in proxy, it would not make the deadline. The prime minister was busy and could not involve himself exclusively on this issue. Yet the only thing left was the prime minister's decision. In the end, his decision came too late.

I believe that in a country governed by law, with the separation of the three powers, administrators, even the prime minister, must adhere to the law. When there are differences in interpretation of law and they cannot make a decision within the administrative branch, it is obvious that they ask for the judgment of the judiciary, instead of appealing to emotional arguments. As for Governor Ota, too, if he were to sign at such a juncture, his political life would be over. So, for him as well, it should have been easier if the judiciary gave the judgment. But this simple logic did not seem to have been understood. As for the reports in the mass media also, there were very few reports on the base issue from the rational view points of policy and legislative arguments.

On 18 October, I had a regular informal talk, drinking beer, with reporters at the agency, and then I went to bed. On the next day, around 0130 in the morning, I received a telephone call which informed me that my off-the-record comments had been reported on the news. On 19 October, I was called before several committees and did not even have time to explain directly what I really meant. I was questioned in the Diet, and there also I made a critical comment concerning the response of the Prime Minister's Official Residence. But that was what I had been saying ever since the refusal of signing problem had occurred. So, if I were blamed for that comment, I cannot help it.

The incident, which happened this time, is a bad example showing how delay in making a political judgment influenced the conduct of administration. When the prime minister made a political judgment, he permitted certain factors to influence him, factors which were fundamentally not supposed to have any impact on the process. So, as a result, it delayed his making his judgment.

As for the bases on Okinawa, many issues still remain. Unless Okinawa permits the U.S. forces' joint use with the Self-Defense Forces, as is the practice in mainland Japan, and, whether it likes or not, changes to accept a burden corresponding to its strategic importance for the peace and prosperity of Japan, Asia, and the world, such issues will not be solved. Also, related to this, we must keep our promise to study and promote U.S.-Japanese cooperation at the time of an emergency, which was made clear at the U.S.-Japan summit meeting.

I am hoping that the time will come soon that, on such important issues, politicians make the correct judgments and pass legislation, administration functions smoothly in keeping with that legislation, and the time comes when "emergency stationing" becomes possible.

Japan: First in Series on Defense Tech Cooperation

OW1605044496 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 10 May 96 Morning Edition p 13

[Article by industrial news reporter Hirofumi Matsuo: "Bitter Experience With the F-2"; first of two-part series entitled "Japan-U.S. Cooperation in Defense Technology Gets Going"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Japan-U.S. cooperation has begun in defense and technology aimed at promoting joint development of defense equipment. Cooperation started after U.S. President Clinton's visit to Japan, during which Japan and the United States agreed to create a new framework for Japan-U.S. security arrangements and confirmed technology cooperation as an important condition for the new framework. In line with this, private sector-level technology exchange is also to start, but defense industries have a deep-rooted distrust of the United States. In addition, there is the problem of how to interpret Japan's three principles on arms exports. There are many problems in cooperation, and this serial article will examine Japan-U.S. cooperation in defense and technology.

Seeking a New Theme

The two governments will enhance mutual exchange in the areas of technology and equipment, including bilateral cooperative research and development of equipment such as the F-2 support fighter (formerly called the FSX)... [ellipses as published] This clause was incorporated in the Japan-U.S. joint security declaration and is important for the defense industry. Japan and the United States have much defense equipment in common. If they cooperate in this area, interoperability between the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] and the U.S. forces will be improved, and it will be possible to cut down development and procurement costs.

The defense authorities of the two nations have began to seek a new theme for joint development. They are moving ahead on some joint basic research projects through the Japan-U.S. Systems and Technology Forum (S&TF) and other opportunities. Coming to the surface as a focus of joint research are next-generation transport and patrol planes. Within the period of the five-year Mid-Term Defense Program (from fiscal 1996 to 2000), the Defense Agency [DA] will decide on the introduction of new aircraft to replace the Maritime SDF's "P3-C" anti-submarine patrol aircraft and the Air SDF's "C-1" transport plane.

The DA plans to come up with performance requirements for new aircraft in about two years and decide whether they should be made domestically or purchased from foreign nations and whether they should be produced under joint development. In this connection, the DA explains: "As for patrol aircraft, the United States does not have any type of patrol aircraft that can meet Japan's requirements. At this moment, we have not received any concrete proposals from the U.S. side."

However, there is the case of the F-2, which was originally planned to be produced domestically until a sudden decision was reached to produce it jointly as a result of negotiations with the United States. The aircraft industry, which relies on the DA for 75 percent of its sales, is carefully watching how things go, because whether patrol and transport aircraft can be produced domestically affects the existence of the industry.

Civilian Technology Is Targeted

The Theater Missile Defense (TMD) system is also likely to be a focus of joint development. Although the United States has been urging Japan to introduce the TMD system, which can crush enemy ballistic missiles, its development requires a huge amount of funds. It is highly possible that the United States will call on Japan to share funds and technology in the form of joint development. Moreover, the United States expects to hold in common Japanese industry's economical and excellent technology in such areas as electronics and materials.

The Japanese defense industry's distrust of Japan-U.S. joint development systems is quite deep, since "even if we decide to develop the TMD system jointly, Japan may not be able to share in the core of the TMD system."

Underlying this distrust is bitter experience. Despite the fact that the Japanese shouldered all the cost, amounting to Y327.4 billion, of developing the F-2 under the first joint development project, the U.S. placed restrictions on revealing the key technology of F-16 fighters, the basic model for the F-2. In this sense, there is strong wariness within the defense industry that this practice set a precedent for the next joint project. As for Japan-U.S. technology cooperation from now on, Managing Director Ryozo Tsutsui of Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd., a former director of the Technical Research and Development Institute of the DA who was deeply involved in the development of the F-2, stressed that "the two nations should continue to make efforts to find a project with interoperability in mind."

The Wall of the "Three Principles"

Within the United States, there is firmly-rooted dissatisfaction that Japan does nothing but one-sidedly absorb the defense technology of the United States. In addition, if a project goes under equal, joint development as Japan wishes, it may not be approved by the current export control regulations, which allows Japan to supply parts at the production stage and for finished products that will be deployed by U.S. forces. If the situation should take that course, the joint project will run into the wall of the three principles on arms export. There is a growing possibility that Japan-U.S. defense technology cooperation will set the Japanese defense industry more difficult tasks than before.

Japan: Second in Series on Defense Tech Cooperation

OW1605044196 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 11 May 96 Morning Edition p 9

[Article by industrial news reporter Hirofumi Matsuo: "A Gift Left by Mr. Flamm"; second of two-part series entitled "Japan-U.S. Cooperation in Defense Technology Gets Moving"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Co., Ltd. [IHI] and three U.S. companies, including the composite material research firm Sparta (in California), have agreed to conduct joint research on advanced composite materials that can be converted for military use. This is the first case of defense technology exchange between companies. Kenneth Flamm, former principle deputy assistant secretary of defense (now senior fellow at the Brookings Institute), played an active part behind the scenes in realizing this new strategy for developing dual-use technologies.

Two-Way Transfer Proposed

There is a term used in the United States: "the Perry Initiative." In order to maintain its defense technology foundation, the U.S. Government has been pursuing a policy of actively making use of excellent and low-cost commercial components and technologies — domestic or foreign — since the end of the Cold War. The term came from the fact that Secretary of Defense William Perry promoted this policy. Since around 1993, the U.S. Government has proposed a plan to realize the bilateral transfer of defense-related technologies between Japan and the United States, requesting Japan to transfer its semiconductor, electronics, and material technologies to the United States. Flamm played the central role in this.

At that time, the United States approached the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] — which was serving as Japan's contact — with "a number of proposals" (according to the Aircraft and Ordnance Division) to acquire Japanese technology in exchange for U.S. technology. Although MITI introduced the proposals to Japanese firms that might show interest, "they were hesitant about the plans, not only because many of them had no commercial advantage, but because the cooperation meant the possibility of their technologies being used for military purposes" (according to Keidanren's Defense Production Committee).

An example is the liquid crystal display [LCD], which is indispensable in the military field, for instance to display navigation information in fighter cockpits. Showing a strong interest in Japan's LCD technology, which accounts for 90 percent of the world market, the U.S. Government contacted the Sharp Corporation and other leading Japanese firms for cooperation. However, "Sharp executives clearly said that they have no intention of selling their LCD technology to us or of making a product for the Pentagon" (from Flamm's speech in ISSUES IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY).

The attempt ended in failure at that time, in part because some questioned the effectiveness of the method of exchanging technology for technology, and Flamm left the Pentagon in 1995. But even after Flamm left government service, negotiations continued persistently, resulting in the agreement between IHI and Sparta. People in the Japanese defense industry refer to it as "a gift left by Mr. Flamm."

Japan Depends on United States for Advanced Technology

Nevertheless, the United States thinks "Japan is still unwilling to transfer its technology." A report on Japan-U.S. cooperation in dual-use technology published by the U.S. National Research Council warns: "Japan's commercial technology will be important to the United States in the future as well, but there are many barriers to acquisition of its technology, such as lack of support by the Japanese Government. Meanwhile, Japanese industry will increase its global competitiveness in the commercial area by using technology gained through international cooperation in the field of defense."

Yuzo Murayama, assistant professor at Osaka University of Foreign Studies, who is familiar with the issues of defense technology transfer, points out, "If technology transfer between Japan and the United States does not become two-way, Japan will face a serious problem in maintaining its defense technology base." The reason is that the Japanese defense industry still has to rely on the United States for most of the advanced technologies.

Public, Private Sectors Working Together To Challenge Japan

There is a sequel to the story of LCD technology. Unable to obtain LCD technology from Japan, the U.S. Government has launched a national project called the "National Flat Panel Display Initiative" — in which the government and companies work together — in order to become competitive in the LCD industry, and has started the development of a high-definition LCD with an eye on military use. This initiative shows that the United States will change itself — by the government and the private sector working together — into a challenger of Japan as long as it keeps its doors closed.

While both Japanese and U.S. Governments agreed that they will strengthen their cooperation in defense technology as part of building a new framework for the Japan-U.S. security alliance, if the agreement lacks substance, there is a possibility that it will develop into friction between the two countries. The case of "Mr. Flamm's gift" has made us aware of that possibility.

Japan: Article Discusses Joint Security Declaration

OW1605022796 Tokyo EKONOMISUTO in Japanese 7-14 May 96 pp 22-23

[Article by Takashi Inoguchi, senior vice president of United Nations University: "Japan Works in Concert with the United States in U.S. World Strategy through the Japan-U.S. Joint Security Declaration, and the Declaration Makes Preparations for Every Conceivable Situation in North Korea"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Japan-U.S. joint declaration signed by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. President Bill Clinton in April 1996 is significant in two points. One is that Internationally, Japan's foreign diplomacy has shown a little change in its course after a long interval. The second is that domestically, Japan's politics has changed its character in a visible form.

Internationally, Japan's policy for the past fifty years, in a word, has been based on the premise that it will not concern itself with international conflicts. During the course of time, the country has resorted to some maneuvers, or its messages directed toward within and outside the country have been differentiated on purpose. However, the declaration this time strikes a little different note. The declaration does not give an impression that things will change immediately and greatly; but it will readily make one acknowledge in retrospect and after the elapse of some time that April 1996 was a turning point in history after all. In that sense, Prime Minister Hashimoto said to President Clinton: "1995 marks the end of the past 50 years, and the year 1996 heralds the beginning of the next 50 years."

At the same time, there was a characteristically great change in Japan's political system. There was a policy compromise within the coalition government. Since the birth of the Murayama administration, the coalition government has incurred a depreciate estimate that the Social Democratic Party [SDP] and Sakigake [Harbinger] are subservient to the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]. However, the government's decision this time clearly shows that is not the case when the decision is seen from the perspective of a package compromise which includes the decision in question and other problems. It is possible to confirm through this process that both SDP and Sakigake, which constitute the coalition government, have a veto in general. What happened before and after President Clinton's visit to Japan? The fiscal expenditures for the bail out of failed housing loan companies [jusen] were revised and the government budget bills passed the Diet. The jusen issue has formed part of the package compromise.

Okinawa Prefecture, the SDP, and Sakigake strongly called for the reversion of [Marine Corps Air Station] Futenma, and public opinion has made that possible. There seems to have been a compromise on the part of the SDP and Sakigake concerning the jusen issue. The SDP and Sakigake have made a compromise with the LDP concerning the jusen issue. In its stead, relocation of military installations within Okinawa and to Japan proper has been made possible. This has made it possible for Okinawa to discontinue bearing a disadvantageous burden. Okinawa had been reverted to Japan on condition that it would receive the same treatment as any other prefecture in Japan. The LDP has carried out the promise made in 1969. The United States has been expecting that Japan will make it possible for the U.S. forces to use more freely their facilities in Japan that are to play a positive role for the security of Japan. This has been the U.S. Government's long-cherished demand, and the current situation is such that the problem of regional security has become one close to the region itself. The opportunity has come to the surface when the Okinawa incident occurred, and the U.S. Government has taken the opportunity without hesitation.

The Development of the Constitution Issue

The U.S. Government has obtained a promise that enables it to use military facilities more freely than before whether they are in Okinawa or Japan proper in case of emergency. After the 1995 Great Hanshin Earthquake and the Tokyo subway sarin attack, the Japanese government also is promoting various measures in preparation for emergencies and has welcomed taking such measures in connection with regional security problems. Needless to say, the Ministry of Finance, hearing the expenditure that will amount to two trillion yen in several years, raised some objections initially. However, the Finance Ministry's objection was overruled outright, just as the ministry could not object to the decision of then Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto [in 1991] to defray 1.39 trillion yen in relation to the Gulf war expenditures.

These domestic developments will become important when the future development of the constitutional problem is considered. There are three possibilities concerning the constitutional problem: [1] The SDP and Sakigke are not content with the current situation. Therefore there is a possibility that they, prompted by a single issue, will revert, in an extreme form, to protection of the Constitution when a sudden emergency arises; [2] There is a possibility that amendment of the Constitution will be accelerated with the birth of a conservative-conservative coalition government; [3] There is a possibility that some LDP members will intensify their call for a withdrawal from the 1996 qualitative change when fiscal expenditures have come to be delayed due to the failure of tax increases to secure revenue. In considering these possibilities, political transactions will become a focal point.

How will the agreement develop that the firm military presence of Japan and the United States in the Asia-Pacific region will insure regional stability and peace? This largely depends how an emergency arises? First, there is a case where the deployment of U.S. forces or diplomatic action do not lead to actual military conflicts like the North Korean problem during 1993-1994 and the Sino-Taiwan problem during 1995-1996. Second, there is a case where U.S. forces settle military conflicts single-handedly on the basis of full Japanese logistical support and through the use of Japanese military facilities. Third, there is a case where both Japan and the United States participate in a battle. It may be that the Japanese Government foresees little possibility of the third case occurring in the near future. The Japanese Government may be seriously thinking about the first case, or the second case at the utmost.

Leaving the Security Matter to Each Region

So far as it goes, the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, which is defined in the agreement as the cornerstone of regional stability and peace, is very important. The United States is the sole superpower following the collapse of the Soviet Union. However, the United States has not only Congress and public opinion that are isolationist and supportive of the reduction of government expenditures, but also is governed by leaders who are not necessarily optimistic about medium-to-long term economic perspectives of the country. The United States wants to reduce the burdens borne by U.S. forces in various parts of the world, but the country also has a strong will to accomplish its political purposes there. Naturally, the United States will take measures that make the U.S. intentions possible in various regions. For instance, in the former Soviet Union, peacekeeping activities will be delegated to Russia; in South Asia, the U.S. naval forces will conduct joint exercises with Indian naval forces; in Africa, peacekeeping activities will be delegated to the Organization of African Unity to a certain degree; in Western Europe, the NATO will take charge of main duties as much as possible. In the Asia-Pacific region, the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty will play the role. So far as it goes, the current agreement is in harmony with the trend of the world.

There is no knowing how the North Korea problem will evolve in the future. However, it is certain that the purpose of the existing agreement is to prepare for every conceivable situation in North Korea. It may be certain that henceforth crisis management will go more smoothly than before through this agreement. This, however, will be generally applicable to the first case mentioned above. In the second case mentioned above, there is a possibility that opposition within Japan will heighten. And it is still unclear whether this agreement will constrain North Korea not to take venturesome action. For this reason, it is important to draw North Korea into the multinational framework.

Japan: Tokyo To 'Avoid Offending' Okinawans on Base Issue

OW1605114596 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 15 May 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the issue of land used for military purposes in Okinawa, the government decided on 14 May to continue making concerted efforts to gain the Okinawan people's understanding, while conducting studies on changing existing laws or drafting new legislation to speed up procedures to allow compulsory use of land. Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama issued this instruction when he met with Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda, Hideo Usui, director general of the Defense Agency, and Saburo Okabe, director general of the Okinawa Development Agency inside the Diet building on the same day. The government made its decision in consideration of the fact that it had previously failed to give the Okinawan people a thorough explanation on the matter. It also believes that, in the event that in the future it may eventually be forced to resort to legal steps such as "drafting special legislation," taking such a flexible stance and making these efforts could help create a political environment under which the Social Democratic Party [SDP] and other groups may show understanding.

Kajiyama asked Ikeda and the other ministers to make every effort to persuade local authorities for the time being to gain Okinawa's understanding, saying: "Okinawan issues are not just problems that only the Foreign Ministry's North American Affairs Bureau or the Defense Facilities Administration Agency [DFAA] must deal with. I would like you to stay in close touch and do all you can to make up for the hardships that Okinawa has experienced for a long time."

At a subsequent news conference, Kajiyama explained: "It is desirable to do what is necessary within the context of existing law; and, if there is any opposition, we must all try to look into what we can do. The administrative branch, for its part, will try to create a favorable environment so that we can persuade the Okinawan people and gain their understanding."

However, regarding plans to draft new legislation or change existing laws centering around revising the Law on Special Measures Concerning Land Used by the U.S. Forces, Kajiyama said: "The government, for its part, will proceed with informal studies on the matter." In this way, Kajiyama stressed that the government plans to continue studying whether to change existing law or draft new legislation. It is observed that the government wants to avoid offending the Okinawan people by bringing up such issues as "drafting special legislation" without making any effort at all in the first place.

Japan: Okinawa Rally Marks Reversion Anniversary

OW1505124896 Tokyo KYODO in English 1228 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, may 15 KYODO — More than 5,000 people attended a rally Wednesday [15 May] marking the 24th anniversary of the return of Okinawa to Japan, demanding the removal of all U.S. military bases from the southwestern island prefecture. Participants gathered at a park following a three-day march across the island in which they appealed for total removal of U.S. bases.

Reflecting nationwide interest in the base issue, a record 1,500 people from other prefectures took part in the annual march for peace, organizers said.

Zenshun Aragaki, the head of a civic group that is one of the organizers, told the rally that Okinawans should do their utmost to get a referendum held on an accord on closer security cooperation struck between Japan and the United States in April.

Aragaki said the accord on cutting back on the scale of U.S. military bases in Okinawa simply "solidifies the Japan-U.S. military alliance."

The Okinawa branch of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo), Japan's largest labor group, last week demanded that the prefectural government make legal arrangements for a referendum on the reduction of U.S. military bases in Okinawa.

The proposed referendum would ask Okinawan people whether they want consolidation and reduction of U.S. military bases in the island prefecture and whether they want a review of the U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement.

The agreement, which defines the status of the U.S. military in Japan, and the U.S. military presence in Okinawa came under fire after an Okinawan schoolgirl was abducted and raped last September by three U.S. servicemen, who are now serving prison terms for the crime.

Under the April agreement, the U.S. military will vacate some 20 percent of the land, being used for U.S. bases in Japan.

Meanwhile, about 200 people took part in another rally in Tokyo opposing U.S. bases in Okinawa.

About 75 percent of all land used by the U.S. military in Japan is concentrated in Okinawa, although the island prefecture makes up only 0.6 percent of Japan's total land area.

Japan: Government Urged To Honor Land Panel Decision

OW1505151496 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 12 May 96 Morning Edition P 5

[Editorial: "Government Urged To Pay Due Respect to Prefectural Land Expropriation Committee's Judgment; Rejection of Emergency Use Request Is Logical"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Okinawa Prefectural Land Expropriation Committee handed down a judgment that rejected the national government's request for the emergency use of a plot used by the U.S. military's Sobe Communications Facility (commonly referred to as the elephant cage) in Yomitan village. The conclusion of the rejection is logical and comprehensible because the national government had failed to present evidence to substantiate its claim that "the Japan-U.S. security arrangement will be hindered if the land cannot be used."

Each and every member in the committee, however, must have gone through agony beyond imagination before the committee reached its conclusion. The Japan-U.S. security arrangements have so far been regarded by both the administration and judiciary as a "sanctuary." It must have required quite a bit of courage for a local autonomy's land expropriation committee to have made a judgment that trespassed on that sanctuary. And that judgment was a fully comprehensible one for the people of Okinawa Prefecture and was in accordance with the principles of the people's sovereignty as provided in the Constitution, of universal peace, and of paying respect to basic human rights.

Has not the national government had such a complacent thought that anything can be done when the "importance of the security arrangements" is stressed? To speak of the importance, political and administrative efforts should have been made constantly to let the local people fully understand by their presentation of concrete, substantiating proofs and by guaranteeing the peaceful life of the local people.

By rejecting a request for "emergency use," it has become certain that the U.S. military's illegal occupation of a plot of land in the elephant cage will extend over a long period of time. While under the illegal occupation, however, operations of military bases, as well as the Japan-U.S. security arrangements, have been functioning as usual. The problem is how the Japanese and U.S. Governments recognize and respond to the fact that something intolerable in a constitutional state has occurred, in spite of the different positions and viewpoints of land owners, local autonomies, and the national government.

Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements Are Not a Sacred Cow

The response the national government has to make is clear: To recognize the fact that the plot of land is illegally occupied and make political as well as administrative efforts to shorten the period of illegal occupation as much as possible. Measures the national government can take in this connection are to pay respect to the judgment of the prefectural land expropriation committee and quickly make efforts to meet the land owner's demand for the return of the land.

As a solution to the state of illegal occupation, the national government is studying revisions to the special measures law concerning the land in use by the U.S. forces stationed in Japan and the forcible measures incorporated in the revisions will inevitably meet the opposition of the Japanese and prefectural people if they are invoked. The situation will, on the contrary, get worse and more complicated. Although such measures may temporarily smooth over the illegality, they will eventually shake the foundation of the constitutional state and jeopardize Japan's politics and the Japan-U.S. relation itself.

In Japan-U.S. relations, the problem of military bases in Okinawa is likened to a small fish bone stuck in the throat. There is no other way but to carefully pick it out. Forcibly treated, the situation will further be aggravated. The Japanese and U.S. Governments have no alternative other than to cooperate in settling one by one the problems related to military bases. Such a highhanded attitude of allowing no argument on grounds that the "security arrangements are important" will only invite repulsion.

In connection with a plot of land in the elephant cage, of which a emergency use request has been turned down, the Japanese and U.S. Governments must start working in a concrete manner to return the plot to the land owner as soon as possible. It was agreed upon in the latest meeting of the Japan-U.S. consultation committee on security that the whole lot on which the communications facility stands will be returned on the condition that the whole facility will be relocated elsewhere. But there are problems such as the relocation of the facility, of which the settlement is time-consuming. Time is running out.

Means have to be worked out to return the lands to the land owners, even at the sacrifice of some functions of the elephant cage. It is wished that measures will be taken to let the land owners, in the least, gain access to their lands at any time. It may look unbecoming that privately owned land exists in a corner of the U.S. military base. But that awkward look must be accepted as it is by the Japanese and U.S. Governments as a sign of "a rent in the security arrangements."

Principle of Sovereignty Resting on the People

The problem of military bases that has recently burst open has come to exist as a result of the nation's mistakes in politics and administration. The first thing that has to be done is to admit the fault. The national government claims that it cannot fulfill its obligations of the treaty with the United States. Such a claim is not substantial, but is intended to save face as a state, because the military bases are functioning even under a state of illegal occupation as a matter of fact. Okinawa's problem of military bases is not confined as the sole responsibility of the Japanese side. This, the U.S. Government needs to understand fully.

After the Second World War, the U.S. forces, with fixed bayonets and bulldozers, turned vast areas into military bases. After Okinawa's reversion to Japan, these bases were provided to be operated under the provisions of the Japan-U.S. security treaty. But the U.S. military bases had existed since long before the reversion. The U.S. Government may not be at ease leaving it as Japan's domestic problem.

Today's problem of military bases was born as a result of the U.S. military occupation and the subsequent system of continued stationing of the U.S. troops. Both the Japanese and U.S. Governments are jointly responsible. The Japanese and U.S. Government authorities have long recognized the fact that the small islands of Okinawa are congested with U.S. military bases and promised their necessary improvement. But the concrete solution of the problem has been neglected. There is no denying that the politics and administration have been awfully insensible to these facts.

At the latest meeting of the Japan-U.S. consultative committee on security, agreements were reached for the return of the Futenma Air Station on condition that it will be relocated elsewhere and so on. Some have commented favorably on this as a positive sign that the seemingly immovable problem of military bases has started to move. But, take the example of the plan to return the Futenma Air Station. It is something like building another new airfield in return for an air station. It is questionable whether the Japanese and U.S. Governments really do understand the problem of military bases.

The national government has a strong sense of crisis about the pending decision on the compulsory use of parcels of land owned by nearly 3,000 land owners and of which lease contracts are due to expire in May next year. Thus it is studying the possibility of compulsory use of the land without going through the procedures at the local municipalities, prefectural governments, and prefectural land expropriation committees by revising the special measures law concerning the land in use by U.S. forces stationed in Japan. But such a stopgap measure may not be possible to solve the base problems. The judgment rendered by the Okinawa Prefectural Land Expropriation Committee has to be accepted as a reminder to the national politicians and administration that the national government should return to the basic truth that sovereignty rests on the people.

Japan: Civic Group Opposes Okinawa Firing Range Move to Oita

OW1505115496 Tokyo KYODO in English 0946 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Oita, Japan, May 15 KYODO — A civic group in Oita Prefecture submitted Wednesday [15 May] to Oita Gov. Morihiko Hiramatsu a petition opposing the transfer here of a U.S. military firing range from the southwestern island prefecture of Okinawa.

The women-only group set up in February is one of the local forces in the prefecture on the southern main island of Kyushu opposing relocation of the range to the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) Hijyudai firing range.

The Hijyudai range was named as one of possible transfer sites by the Japanese Government after it signed a security accord with the United States in April to relocate the Futenma Base in Okinawa.

Japan: Towns Near U.S. Yokota Base Request Tighter Security

OW1605110596 Tokyo KYODO in English 0858 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO — A group of municipalities around the U.S. Yokota Air Base in suburban Tokyo requested Thursday [16 May] a thorough security observance following trouble with a U.S. military transport plane last week.

The group, made up of six cities and towns in the vicinity of the base, submitted the written request to an officer in command of the U.S. Forces in Japan as well as to Japanese Defense Agency Director General Hideo Usui.

According to the Public Relations' Department of the base, smoke billowed out from the fuselage of a C-141 transport plane after the aircraft landed at the base last Saturday.

The smoke was soon taken care of by the base's firefighting unit, and there were no injuries, the department said. Overheated brakes are believed to be responsible for the trouble.

In the request, the group expressed strong concerns, saying the incident could lead to a very serious accident.

Japan: Tokyo Says U.S. Trade Barrier Report 'Result-Oriented'

OW1505143196 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 15 May 96 Morning Edition p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] The Japanese Government on 14 May released a report refuting the Office of the U.S. Trade Represenitive's report on foreign trade barriers issued on 1 April. Regarding the fact that the U.S. report lists 49 products and services in eight Japanese sectors as trade barriers, the Japanese Government blames the United States, saying, "Gauging market openness by market share alone is an excessively result-oriented approach." It then lists U.S. misunderstandings of the facts involved for each item, including photographic film and semiconductors, while offering its rebuttals.

As for the U.S. accusation on the closed nature of the Japanese distribution system for photographic film, Japan criticizes that "the U.S. report fails to give concrete evidences supporting its accusation." Regarding the semiconductor issue, the U.S. report says that, "with the bilateral semiconductor agreement, the relationship between semiconductor industries of the two nations has changed from hostile to cooperative." However, the Japanese Government terms the U.S. view incorrect. It then concludes that "it is inappropriate for the United States to demand expansion of the Japan-U.S. semiconductor agreement based on a misreading of the situation."

Japan: Vice Minister: Retaliatory Trade War 'Unproductive'

OW1605081896 Tokyo KYODO in English 0811 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO — Reciprocal trade retaliation threatened by the United States and China in a copyright piracy dispute is "unproductive" and the two nations should seek a solution through talks, Japan's Vice trade minister said Thursday [16 May].

Speaking at a press conference, Tomio Tsutsumi, vice minister of international trade and industry, said, "slapping sanctions against each other will also give no favorable effects to the world economy."

Japan will continue to help China improve the environment of protecting intellectual property rights by installing legal procedures, among other things, Tsutsumi added.

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) on Wednesday published a preliminary list of 3 billion dollars worth of Chinese exports to be hit with tariffs over copyright piracy, following a failure in talks in Beijing earlier this week.

If China fails to take action, the U.S. will issue a final list which is expected to be narrowed down to about 2 billion dollars for immediate implementation June 17, the USTR said.

In a quick response, China issued its own list of retaliatory tariffs to be imposed against U.S. products such as cars and cotton if Washington goes ahead with its proposed sanctions.

The Japan Phonograph Record Association, meanwhile, issued a written statement in Tokyo, saying it hopes the U.S. step will help improve the copyright situation in China.

"Solving the problem of pirated records is the common priority in the world's record industry to ensure further development of the business," the association said.

Japan: Hashimoto Regrets Mitsubishi Sexual Harassment Case

OW1605110396 Tokyo KYODO in English 0910 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto expressed regret Thursday [16 May] over the handling by Mitsubishi Motors Corp. of the alleged sexual harassment issue at its U.S. subsidiary.

"I'm not sure about factual circumstances, but the U.S. subsidiary seems not to have fully asserted its case," Hashimoto said, referring to the lawsuit filed recently against the Illinois-based Mitsubishi Motor Manufacturing of America Inc.

"I am not given to understand that Mitsubishi has taken adequate measures to check that kind of matter from happening," he said.

He was responding to a question from reporters about the lawsuit filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, accusing the company of allowing sexual harassment of female workers at its plant.

Japan: Tokyo, World Bank Agree To Help Developing Countries

OW1605063496 Tokyo KYODO in English 0601 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and World Bank President James Wolfensohn agreed Thursday [16 May] that Japan and the bank will cooperate to assist developing countries, government officials said.

Hashimoto and Wolfensohn reached the agreement in a meeting.

Wolfensohn is on a two-day visit to Japan and will pay courtesy calls on officials of the foreign ministry and finance ministry.

He also plans to see some representatives of Japanese nongovernmental organizations to discuss the assistance for developing countries, a spokeswoman for the World Bank's Tokyo office said.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda later, Wolfensohn hailed Japan's initiatives to assist the developing world, especially countries in Africa, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Ikeda told the bank president that Asian countries have been growing steadily and some of them do not need any more economic assistance from developed countries.

On the other hand, the economic plight of African nations is in danger of being forgotten as the world's aid donors are running out of steam, the foreign minister was quoted as saying.

Japan: Hashimoto Says APEC Summit Should Boost Free Trade

OW1605124496 Tokyo KYODO in English 1158 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto called Thursday [16 May] on the 18 members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum to make efforts to produce significant regional free trade and investment initiatives at this November's APEC summit in the Philippines.

Japan is determined to work hard for that purpose, Hashimoto said at a banquet during an international conference in Tokyo sponsored by the major economic daily NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN.

"Today in Asian countries, just like in Japan, people have come to understand that opening up their own markets and deregulation will bring about further economic development," he said. "We must make efforts to maintain and develop this trend."

Tokyo will promote the extension of "comprehensive" assistance, including aid, trade and investment, to further Asian economic dynamism, the premier said.

Turning to security, Hashimoto said, "it is indispensable to maintain the U.S. presence as a factor to stabilize the (Asia-Pacific) region."

Hashimoto again called on North Korea to join proposed four-way talks, with South Korea, China and the United States, to promote peace on the Korean peninsula.

Japan: Official on Tokyo's Role in ASEM

OW1605043696 Tokyo GAIKO FORUM in Japanese May 96 pp 74-79

[Interview with Shunji Yanai, deputy vice-minister of foreign affairs, by Toshiki Kawaguchi, assistant political editor of TOKYO SHIMBUN on 15 March; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kawaguchi] Twenty-six top leaders of Asian and European nations got together in Bangkok, the capital city of Thailand, for this first event of the Asian-Europe Meeting [ASEM]. What is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' [MOFA] own appraisal of the outcome of it?

[Yanai] We need to think about what the ASEM is for. The world economy is now made up of three poles — "North America," "the European Union," and "East Asia," last of which has conspicuously grown in scale recently. North America and the EU traditionally have had very good relations, while North America and East Asia have had relatively good relations economically as well as in other areas. But as far as the relationship of East Asia with the EU or Europe in general is concerned, even though the trend of mutual trade is on the rise, it still remains weak compared to that with North America. This meeting has emerged as an idea for making one thin and weak line in a triangle of the three poles thicker and more solid.

I would like to think the meeting marked major progress toward goals in that idea.

[Kawaguchi] Will you tell me how the government was involved or what it did in the ASEM after its first event was decided to be held in Bangkok?

[Yanai] Japan had been consulted by Thailand from the beginning. Japan also maintained close contact with Singapore, the country that first proposed calling this meeting.

If we take a look at the GNPs of these three poles — North America, the EU, and East Asia — we will learn that the GNPs of North America and the EU are about equal, while that of East Asia is slightly smaller than either of the two but still great enough to be called one of the "three big poles." And if we give a close look to the numbers, we will learn that three-fourths of East Asia's GNP comes from Japan. If the ASEAN countries had wanted to call the meeting only by themselves, they would not have been able to attract all the top leaders of Europe into it. In other words, there was the need for Japan to take part in it. That is why, I think, Japan was consulted on from the beginning.

In view of this situation, Japan decided from the beginning that it should participate in the event actively. And it did cooperate actively.

[Kawaguchi] It had been speculated that the "human rights issue" would be made a topic in the meeting. But actually that issue was not brought up, right?

[Yanai] I won't say it was not brought up at all, but in preliminary talks, some countries, which had been criticized by European countries about their domestic human rights problems, expressed concern about the matter possibly becoming a topic in the meeting.

Under the circumstance, Japan warned the European countries at the preliminary talks: "In the ASEM summit, the countries should put with more of an emphasis on the question of how Asia and Europe can promote their mutual understanding and can cooperate with each other, rather than on the human rights issues, particularly the human rights issues of individual nations."

Japan performed its role as an intermediary between Asia and Europe in the informal summit meetings and in the process of drafting the chairman's statement as well.

The Question of "Nuclear-Free Zone"

[Kawaguchi] Referring to the "Treaty on the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Free Zone" concluded in Bangkok last December, the ASEM "chairman's statement" following the summit meeting simply declared the ASEM "took note" of the treaty. If that treaty is to have any effect, nuclear countries need to cooperate in it. What was Japan's position in dealing with that matter?

[Yanai] The chairman's statement merely stated that the ASEM took note of the fact that the 10 Southeast Asian countries signed that treaty. A nuclear-free zone is meaningless unless it has the cooperation of nuclear countries to assure the zone to be free of nuclear arms. And some adjustments of views are still necessary for that assurance to be possible. Japan's position is that of welcoming the treaty if it means a "nuclear-free zone" with the assurance of nuclear countries, but the reality is that nuclear countries have not accepted the treaty, and the treaty is incomplete as such.

The Southeast Asian countries had expressed hope that the ASEM would express a welcome of the treaty.

[Kawaguchi] You mean they asked Japan to "say it welcomes the treaty"?

[Yanai] They asked Japan and other member countries to do that. But we gave them our view that it was a little too early for us to do that. And some of the Southeast Asian countries accepted our position, noting that three of the member countries to take part in the meeting were nuclear powers. That is how the nations came to adopt the expression saying the ASEM "took note" of the fact that the treaty had been signed by the Southeast Asian countries.

[Kawaguchi] Japan is the only country in the world that is the victim of nuclear bombing. The Japanese Government could have expressed a stronger support for that treaty, would you not agree?

[Yanai] Japan strongly made its point on the need for nations to make efforts on the nuclear test ban, nuclear non-proliferation, and arms reduction, and that was accepted into the chairman's statement. After all, an idea on the nuclear arms-free zone is meaningless unless it stands on by realistic foundation. It will have no meaning if it cannot have the nuclear powers' assurance to make the zone nuclear-free.

[Kawaguchi] Are you implying that you think the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Free Zone can have impacts on the operation of the Japan-U.S. security treaty?

[Yanai] When you evaluate a treaty seeking to establish a nuclear-free zone, you have to see if that treaty follows all the rules of international law. Securing free navigation rights is crucial for the United States to maintain its effective military presence in this region. The presence of U.S. armed forces, supported by the Japan-U.S. security treaty, is integral to maintaining the stability of the region. Japan needs to think deeply about that.

"It Isn't Leaving Out the United States" but "Adding Europe"

[Kawaguchi] If one takes a look at the composition of the countries participating in the ASEM, he will notice that this is an uncommon international gathering that does not have the United States in it. Thus, some people think "the United States is left out" intentionally. In other words, they think, the ASEAN wants to balance the U.S. influence exerted through the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) with a new system of cooperation with Europe, while Europe wants to contain the U.S. influence by choosing as their dialogue partners the same 10 Asian countries that are members of the East Asia Economic Conference [EAEC] — the organization proposed by Prime Minister Mahathir of Malaysia and disapproved by the United States. What is your comment on that view?

[Yanai] No doubt, there is such a view. But we do not think that way.

Close ties have existed between the United States and Europe, as well as between the United States and East Asia. But the ties between East Asia and Europe — the one remaining side of a triangle — have been comparatively weak. And because the intention of this meeting is to strengthen this weak side of a triangle, as far as East Asia views it, this is more "adding Europe" than "leaving the United States out."

Generally speaking, to the East Asian countries, this means diversifying its international relations.

The meaning of the ASEM lies in strengthening relations between East Asia and Europe. The United States understands it that way, and thus is at ease and relaxed [preceding word in English]. That is the fact, I tell you.

[Kawaguchi] Are you saying the United States is relaxed even though the Asian countries participating in the ASEM are the same countries participating in the EAEC?

[Yanai] The United States understands the purpose for the ASEM well — that it is to strengthen one weak side of a triangle. The United States, after all, is already a part of that triangle, so one should not say the United States is left out.

Besides, even though among them are the 10 countries that make up the EAEC, since it is clear that the purpose of the meeting is to strengthen ties between East Asia and Europe, there is not much to worry.

In addition, we are consciously trying to keep the United States informed about the meeting. We have the United States informed about proposals made in the ASEM and about what Japan thinks about them. As for degree of transparency, it is crystal clear.

[Kawaguchi] Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto had visited the United States in February, shortly before the ASEM event. Was the ASEM discussed during his visit to the United States?

[Yanai] There were no particular discussions made on that subject during his visit to the United States, but after the ASEM event ended, the prime minister explained to President Bill Clinton about what transpired. Later, Japan's foreign minister called in Ambassador Walter Mondale to his office to explain him in details on the meeting. Briefings were given at the working level immediately as well.

[Kawaguchi] How did the U.S. news media deal with the ASEM?

[Yanai] Since their president did not participate in it, they appeared not to have been so interested. Reports on the event were also very much limited.

[Kawaguchi] Now to talk about other countries which want to join the ASEM, four nations are known to have expressed desire to join it, but I understand there were no substantive discussions made on that question in the meeting. How does the Japanese Government plan to treat that question in the future?

[Yanai] Australia and New Zealand had expressed strong desire to join it from the beginning. And Japan took the position that the two countries should join it in view of the fact that they want to be accepted as members of Asia by promoting their relations with East Asia.

Japan felt they should join it from the first meeting. But some of the ASEAN countries thought differently, and there were also the countries that said they should join it from the second meeting. And actually there is no agreement on the matter yet.

India and Pakistan have also expressed desire to join the meeting. Since they are clearly Asian countries, located between East Asia and Europe, Japan's position is that they too should be allowed to join it.

But in informal talks, I understand, some countries expressed their view that it is too early for the ASEM to discuss the matter of additional membership. Regarding Australia and New Zealand, some even questioned if they are really a part of Asia. At the end, the countries were said to have agreed that they should not push the matter and to have decided to drop the matter for now. As such, the matter remains pending for further discussions until the next event of the ASEM.

Presence of Japan Was Very Much Felt

[Kawaguchi] Now to talk about Japan's role in the ASEM, Prime Minister Hashimoto and Foreign Minister Ikeda in that ASEM event made several constructive proposals. But my impression of the meeting is that Japan's presence in it was not so well felt. What role do you think Japan should play henceforth in this move of the two power blocs — the EU and the ASEAN — to get closer to each other?

[Yanai] Considered as advanced industrially and as democratic politically, Japan is a member of the G-7. Japan and European countries share the same sense of values and have good economic ties with each other. Japan is unique in that while its position is similar with that of Europe, it is also an Asian country. Being in such a position, I think, Japan will have opportunities to play the role of an "intermediary" between Europe and Asia in the future.

"Mediation" is something that is not done in a flamboyant manner on an open stage, but quietly behind the scenes. As such, what it did for the first meeting probably did not stand out, but I am sure the countries that attended it felt very much the presence of Japan.

Since the scenes of the ASEM summit meeting were not televised publicly, Japan's activities might have not looked outstanding. But Prime Minister Hashimoto actively took part in debate. In fact, other countries' leaders in their remarks noted the prime minister's statements by citing them frequently, for instance, saying, "though Prime Minister Hashimoto said that, my view is this," or "what the prime minister said is correct, so let's do this way."

[Kawaguchi] Is that so?

[Yanai] The ASEM agreed on 12 follow-up items and five study items. Five of the 12 follow-up items and one of the five study items were proposed by Japan. Japan was the country that presented the largest number of the proposals.

First of the five is on hold for the 1997 economic ministers' conference in Japan; the second is on hold for a business meeting in 1997; third is on the formation of a network connecting think tanks; the fourth is on conducting studies about achieving synergy effects by getting the economies of Asia and Europe closer, and the fifth proposes an intellectual exchange plan for youths.

Japan also proposed to form a cooperation system whereby customs offices of the countries can cooperate in stamping out drug trafficking. But at that time the top leaders of the nations were so excited and absorbed in such high-flying subjects as that of linking Asian railway systems with European systems that Japan could not get the leaders interested in the mundane subject of drug. Japan regrets that the subject was set aside as an item to study further, but still the nations agreed on the need for actions to stamp out the drug trafficking.

[Kawaguchi] I see.

[Yanai] So there are 12 proposed items that need to be followed up and five items that need to be studied further. This means there is much work to do to make them work, and Japan is very good in that type of work.

[Kawaguchi] But if Japan's role is that of an intermediary or mediator only, Japan will be booted out once the two groups come to be able to do things on their own, don't you think?

[Yanai] To begin with, I would like to note, the reason this summit meeting was possible was because there was the big presence of Japan in it. I do not think it will be possible to boot Japan out. Japan's presence is too big for that. [laughter]

[Kawaguchi] What is your outlook on the future of the ASEM?

[Yanai] The first conference of it had a major meaning in that it brought the top leaders of Asia and Europe together at one place. And an agreement was made on some specific proposals, which can be considered also an achievement. But the real appraisal on it can come only after all these proposals have been followed up and implemented.

[Kawaguchi] Then the question boils down to whether Japan can display its leadership in the follow-up operations or not.

[Yanai] I think Japan can do it fairly well. I think Japan should and can do it well. The summit meetings will be held every two years. The next meeting will be held in England, and the following event in Seoul, Korea. In between the summit meetings, there will be meetings of foreign ministers, economic ministers, and working-level officials. Sure, I think a future direction for the ASEM has been set.

[Kawaguchi] Thank you so much.

Japan: Ikeda Cites Need for New Regional Security Forum

OW1605034796 Tokyo KYODO in English
0220 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO — Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda on Thursday [16 May] pointed to the need for a new forum to discuss ways to strengthen mutual confidence in East Asia.

"It is necessary to have a clearer picture of something subregional, or some measures to strengthen mutual confidence in East Asia," he said in a speech at a symposium.

Ikeda made the remark as he made an appeal to set up a new framework on security that would supplement the existing ASEAN regional forum.

Referring to the escalation of tensions between China and Taiwan earlier this year, the foreign minister said the establishment of a fresh forum for security dialogue "is our urgent task."

But Ikeda failed to spell out what he has in mind for a new framework on security in East Asia.

He also brushed aside speculation that Japan made a major step toward becoming a military power again with the redefining of its security alliance with the United States in April.

The Japan-U.S. security arrangements are intended to ensure peace and prosperity not only in Japan but also in the entire Asia-Pacific region, he said.

Japan: Foreign Ministry on Population, AIDS

OW1505150796 (Internet) Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW in English 14 May 96

[Foreign Ministry press release on Japan's Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS issued on 14 May; from the "What's New" link]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **Japan's Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS**

Japan will implement the "Global Issues Initiative on Population and AIDS," which will effect positive cooperation for developing countries in the sum of around US$3 billion within its Official Development Assistance (ODA) programme during the seven-year period from FY1994 to FY2000.

(1) Background

In view of such serious situations, it is widely recognised that the population and AIDS problems are the common issues of all humanity to be tackled immediately. Based upon this recognition, the 10th International Conference on AIDS (Yokohama), International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) (Cairo), the AIDS Summit (Paris) and the World Women's Conference (Beijing) were held in 1994/1995. In February 1994, prior to the series of these conferences, Japan announced the "Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS" for cooperation to developing countries by allocating US $3 billion within ODA programmes in the fields of population and HIV/AIDS during the 7 year period from FY1994 to FY2000. In each of ICPD and the AIDS Summit, Action Plans were announced. Japan is prepared to make international contribution to implement these Action Plans by promoting the GII.

(2) Comprehensive Approach

As reconfirmed in ICPD and the World Women's Conference, a comprehensive approach is important not only to curb population growth rate by promoting family planning, but also to take appropriate measures to solve fundamental issues which lead to population increase in developing countries, such as high infant and mother's mortality rate, poor hygiene situation, low level of education and status of women, poverty, etc. In addition to direct cooperation to the population and family planning, Japan has determined to make a comprehensive approach including indirect cooperation, i.e. reproductive health and empowerment of women such as primary health care, primary education, literacy education and vocational training of women. In the field of HIV/AIDS, as its remedy has not been established and due to the importance of preventive measures, the following areas of cooperation are to be pursued: GII on Population and AIDS Direct Cooperation for Population 1) Mother and child health care and family planning 2) IEC (Information, Edcucation and Commucation) on Family Planning 3) Population dynamics Indirect Cooperation for Population 1) Primary health care 2) Primary education 3) Vocational training and literacy education for women Cooperation for HIV/AIDS Pandemic 1) Education and information on preventive measures 2) Transfer of testing technology 3) Cooperation for survey and research on HIV/AIDS GII on Population and AIDS

(3) Selection of GII Priority Countries and Dispatch of Project Formulation Missions on Population and AIDS

To promote the GII, 12 priority countries out of Asia, Africa and Latin America were selected, judging from the seriousness and urgency of the problems, preparedness of the governments to receive Japan's assistance, activities of major donors and international organisations. To these priority countries, Project Formulation Missions on Population and AIDS have been dispatched. As the result of the Missions, a number of GII related projects have already been materialised.

GII Priority Countries

Asia (6 countries): the Philippines, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand (only AIDS)

Africa (5 countries): Kenya, Ghana,Tanzania,Senegal, Egypt (only population)

Latin America (1 country): Mexico

(4) Japan-U.S. Common Agenda Cooperation with Major Donors and International Organisations

Cooperation with major donors and international organisations is regarded as one of the main pillars of the GII. The United Kingdom and Germany announced similar initiatives to the GII of about US$150 million and US$2 billion respectively on the occasion of ICPD. Japan has been maintaining close collaboration particularly with the United States since the initiation of Japan-U.S. Common Agenda (note). In addition, in the field of population and HIV/AIDS, Japan has been contributing funds to UNFPA and WHO. Bilateral- multilateral aid cooperation that provides materials of population and family planning and vaccine related materials in cooperation with UNFPA and UNICEF, has been positively promoted since its introduction in ODA schemes in FY 1994.

Note: Common Agenda is one of the pillars of the Japan-U.S. Framework Talks. The cooperation programme was established in July 1993 by Japan and the United States jointly to tackle global issues toward the 21st Century.

(5) Collaboration with NGO

In the fields of population and HIV/AIDS, NGOs play an important role and collaboration with NGO is one of the main pillars of Japan's policy in GII implementation. "NGO subsidiaries", which support overseas projects by Japanese NGOs, as well as "Grant Assistance for Grass Roots Projects", which supports NGO projects in abroad regardless of nationalities, are at present main schemes of Japan's ODA. The proportion of GII projects in each of the scheme was 29% and 52% respectively in FY 1994, which shows that many NGO projects on population and HIV/AIDS were positively supported. For the promotion of the GII, meetings between The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and NGO have been held on a regular basis since 1994 to seek further collaboration with NGOs. As the result of the series of discussions, participation of NGO representatives in the Project Formulation Missions on Population and AIDS and training courses for human resources development of GII, etc. have been realized.

Japan: MOFA on Food Aid to DPRK, Tripartite Talks

OW1505135896 (Internet) Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW in English 14 May 96

[News conference by Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto with unidentified reporters on 14 May; place not given; from the "What's New" link]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Topics of Discussion]

I. Introduction to the press conference and announcements to the Press

A. General Assembly of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

B. Possibility of Japan purchasing weapons from the Russian Federation

II. Possible North Korean requests for food aid

III. Discussion between Japan and the Russian Federation on a possible four-party conference on peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula

IV. 2002 World Cup Soccer Tournament

V. Tripartite talks taking place on Cheju Island between Japan, the United States, and the Republic of Korea

VI. Further matters relating to food aid to North Korea and the tripartite talks between Japan, the United States and the Republic of Korea

VII. Economic difficulties and food shortages in North Korea

VIII.Possible Japanese security measures

IX. Possible Japanese security measures allowed by the Constitution of Japan

X. Possible linking of food aid to normalization talks between Japan and North Korea

XI. Decision by Kawasaki City to allow non-Japanese city employees

XII. ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) working-level meeting

XIII.Trade relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China

XIV. Legality of providing Japan Self Defense Forces personnel for United Nations peacekeeping operations (PKO)

I. Introduction to the press conference and announcements to the Press

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

A. General Assembly of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto: The ninth General Assembly of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is over now. The Government of Japan is happy that the Ninth General Assembly of the Conference made big progress on reforming the institution itself, including drastic reduction of intergovernmental meetings, and streamlining projects. The Government of Japan is particularly happy about two things: One, that the Conference decided to reallocate a part of the savings resulting from the reform to technical cooperations, etc.; and two, that the Conference itself advocated the south-south cooperation which should be promoted through sharing of development experiences among developing countries at different stages of development.

B. Possibility of Japan purchasing weapons from the Russian Federation

Spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto: At my last press conference, I was asked whether the Government of Japan intends to buy Russian-made weapons. The Defense Agency does not have a concrete plan to buy Russian weapons; however, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs understands that the Defense Agency considers it desirable to have an opportunity to deepen its understanding of the design concepts behind, and performance of, Russian-made weapons, in the future process of the development of security dialogue and mutual exchange between the Defense Agency of Japan and the Russian Ministry of Defense.

Those are the announcements that I wanted to make, and I will be delighted to respond to any questions that you might have.

II. Possible North Korean requests for food aid

Q: This morning Reuters reported that Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Shunichi Yanai, who is now visiting Cheju Island in Korea, said that Japan has received a request from North Korea to supply them with more food, and that the Japanese Government is considering this. Could you tell us about that?

A: I think this Reuters report does not reflect reality. There may be some misinformation or misunderstanding. We have not received any request from the North Korean authorities to extend additional food aid.

III. Discussion between Japan and the Russian Federation on a possible four-party conference on peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula

Q: Yesterday, Prime Minister Hashimoto had meetings with some Korean political leaders, and while Prime Minister Hashimoto was meeting them, he told them that while he was in Russia having a summit with President Yeltsin, there was talk on the four-way talks which have been suggested by the Republic of Korea and the United States. And, Prime Minister Hashimoto suggested to President Yeltsin that both Japan and Russia should stay away and keep their places, before being asked to play some role by the participating countries. Could you confirm that, since you have been to Russia with Prime Minister Hashimoto?

A: I went to the Russian Federation with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto. I remember that Prime Minister Hashimoto told President Yeltsin of the Russian Federation that the Government of Japan fully supports the four-party conference suggestion. Prime Minister Hashimoto did not tell President Yeltsin that we should stay behind, and so on. What Prime Minister Hashimoto wanted to emphasize is that the Government of Japan fully supports this idea. At the same time, President Yeltsin did not specifically tell Prime Minister Hashimoto that the six-country meeting idea should replace the one for the four-country meeting. He vaguely suggested that Russia is also interested in peace and stability over the Korean Peninsula.

IV. 2002 World Cup Soccer Tournament

Q: It has been reported in Japanese papers that there is a movement in the Japanese ruling coalition to host the World Cup together with the Republic of Korea.

A: To host what?

Q: World Cup soccer. Could you tell me the Japanese Government's stance on this?

A: There are a lot of speculative reports about this. Up until now, we understand that the Republic of South Korea's member of the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) has not changed his mind. He is vigorously supporting the invitation of World Cup soccer to the Republic in Korea. The Football Association of Japan maintains its own fundamental policy. It has still been pursuing the possibility of inviting World Cup soccer to Japan. The Government of Japan is supporting what the Football Association of Japan has been doing. So, although there are lots of speculative reports about this, I do not think that the position of the Government of Japan has changed. But, at the same time, I would like to make the comment that this is a sports event. We understand that the Japanese soccer fans are very enthusiastic about inviting World Cup soccer to Japan, while our friends, the Korean fans, are also enthusiastic about inviting World Cup soccer to the Republic of Korea. We should separate this from the political relationship. We do not know the outcome of the ballot of 1 June, but in any case, Japan and the Republic of Korea should not be influenced by the decision of FIFA. So, whatever the result, we should continuously endeavor to strengthen our friendly ties between the two countries.

V. Tripartite talks taking place on Cheju Island between Japan, the United States, and the Republic of Korea

Q: Could you tell us the status of the trilateral talks going on on Cheju?

A: I believe it will end sometime this afternoon. After the end of the meeting, we expect that they will hold a press conference. What I have heard from our colleagues is that yesterday, they talked about the economic and food situations in North Korea. They exchanged views about the four-party conference proposed by President William Clinton of the United States of America and President Kim Young Sam of the Republic of Korea. They exchanged views about the talks between the United States and the North Korean authorities on missiles and other subjects. The Japanese side explained to the United States and the Republic of Korea about our basic stance on the issue of normalization of relations between Japan and North Korea. We understand that the three countries share, more or less, the same understanding that the food situation in North Korea has been worsening since last January when the prior tripartite meeting took place. That is what I know.

Q: Do you have any idea how bad it has become?

A: We have not yet received detailed information on this subject.

Q: This tripartite meeting seems to be, essentially, a forum to swap information. Is that correct?

A: Yes, that is right.

Q: Are the three countries trying to strike a common course of action or policy direction?

A: When the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Meeting took place in Osaka, the leaders of the three countries decided to hold the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on North Korea. The main purpose of the Meeting is to exchange information about the situations involving North Korea. This is not a forum for the three parties to make decisions on concrete policies toward North Korea. I am sure that they exchanged views on their respective policies toward North Korea.

VI. Further matters relating to food aid to North Korea and the tripartite talks between Japan, the United States and the Republic of Korea

Q: I assume there will be a statement coming out of that meeting tonight. Do you have any idea what time it will be, and whether it would be possible to get a copy of it?

A: The conference itself will end, basically during working hours, sometime after 17:00. After that, they will go to a press conference, but it will be done over there. So, even the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cannot get the information until the press conference is over.

Q: Has the Japanese Government ever stated its position on food aid as a possible means to entice North Korea into resuming dialogue with South Korea?

A: Not directly. Last year, we extended emergency food aid to North Korea twice, bilaterally. And, through United Nations organizations also, we extended food aid to North Korea. At that time, we stated that this would be implemented from a humanitarian perspective. At the same time, we talked about, in a general sense, the hope of the Government of Japan that north- south dialogue would be resumed. I do not think the Government of Japan directly linked the two.

VII. Economic difficulties and food shortages in North Korea

Q: Could you tell us what information the Government of Japan may have regarding the economic situation in North Korea?

A: Basically, our position has not changed since last January. This means that Kim Chong-il still controls his government and his army, and that although North Korea faces enormous economic difficulties and shortages of food, Kim Chong-il's institution is functioning. I am sure that this position has been, or is going to be, conveyed to the other two partners. We will check whether or not our assessment is, or has been, supported by the other two countries.

VIII. Possible Japanese security measures

Q: In the aftermath of the visit of President Clinton, and again stressing the importance of the Japan-U.S. Security Agreement, yesterday, the Prime Minister called to his office a meeting of officials of the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry, if I recall correctly. They should scrutinize together the possibility to act in conformity with the Japanese Constitution in certain fields where, probably, there could be cooperation in the future. That is, first, speaking about the repatriation of some Japanese citizens if there is some problem abroad, and secondly, refugees. So, maybe there is a possible link with some problems on the Korean Peninsula. I wonder, up to now, would it be possible that the defense forces of Japan and the U.S. military people positioned in Okinawa, Japan, or Korea — could they not work together to control a possible situation before drafting a new report on that matter? My question is, is the Prime Minister asking the two ministries, possibly, to work together and scrutinize? Hasn't it been possible, up to now, to take the same actions without this new drafting?

A: What the Prime Minister instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Defense Agency to do was to study several ideas for measures in the case of a crisis, or a crisis in the making. Therefore, while I do not probably fully understand the essence of your question, what Prime Minister Hashimoto has instructed us to study is something that the Government of Japan cannot implement under the present laws and regulations. Prime Minister Hashimoto instructed us, as you rightly pointed out, to study several things in areas such as the protection of Japanese citizens overseas, measures for potentially massive numbers of refugees, our patrol in Japanese waters, our defense cooperation with the United States, and so on. We will start studying what we can do within the present Constitution. Therefore, unless the Government can produce something concrete, we cannot implement something which does not exist, which lacks a present legal arrangement in Japan. Have I answered your question correctly?

Q: Yes, I think partly. I think that in this context, there is a possible discussion about things like collective defense or out-of-the-area defense, because the U.S., under the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, is covering the Far-East as an area. If now, the Japanese Government is asking to check whether there could be missions, maybe under a certain mandate under the leadership of the U.S., that the Japanese could help with — one realistic scenario is, probably, that the Japan Self Defense Forces could be asked to cooperate to help contain some refugee problems.

A: The official interpretations of the Government of Japan on the so-called Collective Security Right is that Japan obtains the Right under the present Constitution; however, the Government is prohibited from using the Right. Prime Minister Hashimoto repeatedly says that the Government of Japan does not intend to change the interpretation of the Collective Security Right. However, within the present interpretation of the Constitution, still there are many things that the Government should do in a crisis or in a crisis in the making, and we do not have the proper laws and regulations for this. So, Prime Minister Hashimoto instructed the two ministries to study what we can do, and what we should do.

Q: Does it mean that within the Constitution there could be a change of laws in that context?

A: There could be a change of laws or a creation of suitable laws which can be matched in a crisis situation. The Prime Minister has communicated the importance of approaching this problem, not from the obscure Collective Security Right, but from a realistic sort of approach to this. Within the present Constitution, we have to use our brains to determine what sort of things are required in the case of crisis. We should prepare regulations for this, but we have to start studying what we should do. We hope that in the very near future a concrete study will start.

IX. Possible Japanese security measures allowed by the Constitution of Japan

Q: Could you give us one or two examples of things that would be permissible under the present Constitution, but for which rules and regulations have not yet been written? I am just looking for one or two examples.

A: For example, under the present laws on the Japan Self Defense Forces, the Government of Japan may dispatch its aircraft abroad to rescue Japanese citizens, but is not allowed to send vessels belonging to the Japan Self Defense Forces abroad for the same purpose. Probably, this is one area for discussion on where we should enlarge the role for the Japan Self Defense Forces in the rescue of Japanese citizens. Supposing massive numbers of refugees come form North Korea to the Republic of Korea, we simply have no laws and regulations to cover that kind of situation, except for extending financial contributions and so on. So, we have to study what we can do in facing that kind of situation. There are, in fact, lots of things to do, but we have not yet decided what we should discuss under the four categories which I explained to you in concrete terms.

X. Possible linking of food aid to normalization talks between Japan and North Korea

Q: Yesterday, the South Korean defense minister met his Japanese counterpart and asked Japan to take the same stance if North Korea should make another request for food aid. Could you give us the details and correct data to be made available about the food to be delivered to the refugees or Korean citizens directly? Could we be sure that the food aid is not being transferred to military leaders? What is the Japanese Government's stance on this?

A: Yesterday, Director-General of the Defense Agency Hideo Usui and Minister of National Defense Yi Yang-ho of the Republic of Korea met and exchanged views on this. We understand that Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho said that if Japan extends food aid to North Korea in the future, the Government of the Republic of Korea considers it very important to secure the assurance that this food aid is not used for military purposes. He said that the Government of Japan should understand the situation. I do not think that Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho said that this is a condition to be imposed by the Republic of Korea on Japan. It seems that Defense Director-General Usui did not respond to Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho directly. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs understands the concerns of the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Korea on this particular question.

XI. Decision by Kawasaki City to allow non-Japanese city employees

Q: Yesterday, Kawasaki City made a decision to accept non-Japanese as employees of the City. It has been reported that the Central Government is against this move. Would you comment on that?

A: I am sorry, but I do not have the official statement here. But, for example, I am working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs — unless one is a citizen of Japan, one is not allowed to work for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The same basic policy applies to other Central

Government officials. I believe the Ministry of Home Affairs thinks this basic policy should continue. But I do not have an official statement here today, so I will study it in the meantime and answer you later.

Q: It has been mentioned that most of them are Korean people born in Japan. They are still considered foreign by Japan.

A: Under Japanese laws and regulations, there is no discrimination regarding these citizens. Whether you are a Korean born in Japan or not, if one thing is applied to Korean people, then it is automatically applied to other foreign citizens as well. I do not think that the Central Government is going to study applying something specific to one particular country which may wish to have its citizens work in the ministries of the Government of Japan. But, I do not have the documents here, so I will thoroughly study the matter and get back to you.

XII. ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) working-level meeting

Q: Could you tell us the major issues in point agreed upon?

A: I understand that this time, the SOM agreed to invite the Republic of India and the Union of Myanmar to participate in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) from July on, on the basis of the criteria for membership in the ARF which was accepted by a consensus of the members of the ARF. That is a major concrete result of the last meeting in Indonesia. Apart from that, I do not have specific information about the details of discussions at the ARF working-level meeting.

Q: Are India and Myanmar [Burma] being invited as observers or full-scope members?

A: I believe full-scope members, not observers. Incidentally, if you are interested in the criteria for membership in the ARF, which was agreed upon at the last meeting, basically, there are four criteria. The first is the degree of development of the applicant's ability to support ARF activities. The second is the degree of security relationships the applicant has in the Asia-Pacific region. The third is that the membership shall be enlarged progressively. And, the fourth is that new membership is to be decided on the basis of consensus. This is the agreement reached on the working level. Officially, the new criteria and the membership of India and Myanmar will be decided on a day before the 23 July meeting.

XIII. Trade relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China

Q: Has the Government of Japan taken any position on the U.S. threat to impose sanctions on China in this trade dispute over intellectual property rights?

A: First of all, this is a dispute between the United States and the People's Republic of China. We fundamentally hope that the two countries maintain a good relationship. We believe that the Asia-Pacific region can benefit from the good relationship between the two countries. Secondly, Japan does not like the unilateral measures imposed on Japan by the United States. Therefore, when the United States decides or threatens to take unilateral sanctions, the Japanese side always reacts that it cannot accept that. But, as for relations between the United States and China, Japan cannot be involved directly. We hope that both countries can reach a mutually acceptable solution on this.

XIV. Legality of providing Japan Self Defense Forces personnel for United Nations peacekeeping operations (PKO)

Q: There have been several U.N. missions of Japan, like in Cambodia or South Africa, and recently the Golan Heights. These missions, have they been possible on the basis of a new interpretation of the Constitution, or were there news laws drafted before?

A: Under the present Constitution, the Government of Japan asked the National Diet of Japan to enact the relevant law for dispatching Japan Self Defense Forces personnel to United Nations peacekeeping operations (PKO). The Diet approved this, and under this law, we have been dispatching defense personnel. Thank you very much.

Japan: Maritime Safety Agency Denies Firing on ROK Vessel

OW1505153796 Tokyo KYODO in English 1521 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 15 KYODO — A Japanese patrol boat opened fire on a South Korean fishing boat which entered Japanese territorial waters late Monday [13 May] night, the South Korean YONHAP NEWS AGENCY reported Wednesday.

The agency said the Japanese boat shot four to five rounds at the 116-ton South Korean boat near the Japanese island of Tsushima at around 11 P.M. Monday.

No injuries were reported, although nets and other equipment were damaged, the report said.

A South Korean maritime police officer was quoted as saying that the Japanese boat fired warning shots after the fishing boat violated Japanese waters.

In Japan, the Maritime Safety Agency's regional office in Kitakyushu, southwestern Japan, told reporters that one of its patrol ships launched several "warning devices" at the South Korean boat in accordance with international custom but did not shoot at the vessel.

According to agency officials, the patrol ship which spotted the South Korean boat first blew whistles in an attempt to stop it and conduct an inspection.

But the fishing boat tried to escape, so the agency ship threw several devices that rise into the air and emit a loud noise and flashing light, the officials said.

Fragments of the devices are believed to have hit the fishing boat and damaged some of its equipment, they said.

Japan: Tokyo, ROK Agree on Need To Realize 4-Way Talks

OW1505133196 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 15 May 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] In their meeting at the Foreign Ministry building on the evening of 14 May, Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda and visiting ROK Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho agreed to give the highest priority to holding consultations of the ROK, the DPRK (North Korea), the United States, and China with an aim of easing the tension on the Korean peninsula.

Yi requested Japan's cooperation in realizing the consultation, saying: "Japan and Russia should assume certain roles in maintaining northeast Asian stability. However, at present, we would like to deal with this matter under the framework of the four-way talks." In response, Ikeda said, "Immediate priority should be given to realization of the quadrilateral talks." As for the Japan-DPRK normalization talks, Ikeda said that "Given such a situation, we need to cautiously deal with this matter."

Regarding the DPRK's domestic situation, Yi said: "Although it is true that the DPRK is faced with economic distress and a food crisis, they will not immediately bring about the regime's collapse." Then they agreed to continue paying attention to North Korea's moves.

Yi again praised the Japan-U.S. Joint Declaration on Security released in April, saying, "A solidified Japan-U.S. security alliance will contribute to the security of the Asia-Pacific region, including the Korean peninsula." Ikeda explained that Japan will promote review of the "Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation," while showing his intention to provide the ROK with information about progress in the review if it is necessary.

Japan: ROK Legislator Stresses Need of Four-Way Talks

OW1505115096 Tokyo KYODO in English 0944 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 15 KYODO — The President of South Korea's Korea-Japan Parliamentarians Union on Wednesday [15 May] noted the importance of the proposed talks involving South and North Korea plus the United States and China for stability on the Korean peninsula, Japanese officials said.

Kim Yun-hwan told Japan's Liberal Democratic Party Secretary General Koichi Kato in a meeting at the party's headquarters that Japan and Russia would also have a role to play if the four-way talks succeed, the officials said.

Kim was quoted as saying further efforts should be made to persuade North Korea to come to the talks aimed at promoting peace on the Korean peninsula.

He also told Kato that North Korea is experiencing "extreme" economic and food supply problems.

"I wouldn't be surprised if they collapse any time, but rapid change is not desirable," Kim was quoted as saying.

"We do not know who holds power, but perhaps there is a lot of weight in the interpretation that the military has it," he said.

Kim is a member of South Korea's governing New Korea Party and is a former journalist who once worked in Tokyo as a correspondent for a South Korean newspaper.

On April 16, South Korean President Kim Yong-sam and U.S. President Bill Clinton proposed that the U.S., China and the two Koreas hold talks to negotiate a peace treaty to replace the armistice agreement which ended the 1950-1953 Korean war.

North Korea had been calling for a bilateral treaty with the U.S. and threatened to abrogate the armistice.

Japan: Mahathir Promotes Multimedia Plan to Japanese Firms

OW1505135696 Tokyo KYODO in English 1306 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 15 KYODO — Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad called on Japanese firms Wednesday [15 May] to participate in his country's plan to build a new multimedia hub.

In a speech in Tokyo to about 300 company executives, Mahathir said the planned "multimedia super corridor" will provide an ideal environment for information and high-tech related industries.

The hub is to be located in the south of Kuala Lumpur, and will bring together companies in the information, high-tech and telecommunications sectors.

Mahathir said that in the new area, laws that restrict telecommunications operations will be revised and preferential measures in taxation will be taken.

The prime minister will address specifics of the plan during the multimedia Asia 1996 meeting to be held in Kuala Lumpur in August.

Japanese telecom giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. will be in charge of establishing the informational foundation for the hub.

Japan: Tokyo To Talk With PRC Over 200-Mile Economic Zone

OW1605113896 Tokyo KYODO in English
1031 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO — China's ratification of a U.N. treaty on marine resources has opened the way for Tokyo and Beijing to negotiate over the boundaries of each other's 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zones, Vice Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Hiroshi Ueno said Thursday [16 May].

Ueno told a news conference that the Chinese ratification "will enable us to get down to talks with them in earnest."

The U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea recognizes the authority of signatory nations to exert exclusive jurisdiction over fisheries and mineral resources that lie within 200 miles from their shores.

However, the 200-mile zones of Japan, China and South Korea overlap due to territorial claims, raising the specter of possible clashes of interests.

Ueno said, "we have to press ahead with negotiations concerning the area where the relationships of the three countries are intertwined, while keeping the entire situation in mind."

Japan: Hashimoto Meets Sri Lankan President

OW1505144696 Tokyo KYODO in English
1350 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 15 KYODO — Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga said Wednesday [15 Maky] she is making maximum efforts to resolve the long-standing ethnic conflict between majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils in her country.

Kumaratunga, who arrived in Japan on Tuesday for a four-day official visit, referred to the conflict when she met Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Hashimoto expressed Japan's readiness to cooperate in reconstructing the civil war-torn part of Sri Lanka, centering on the northeastern Jaffna peninsula, once the country achieves outright peace, the official said.

The two leaders agreed to open a policy dialogue on political, economic and other fields but left details undecided, according to the official.

Kumaratunga asked Hashimoto to visit Sri Lanka, and he said he will consider the offer.

At the outset of the meeting, Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar and Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda exchanged notes on Tokyo's extension of a fresh low-interest loan of up to 38.44 billion yen to Colombo for five infrastructure- and environment-related projects.

The yen-denominated official credit will be the largest Japan has ever offered to Sri Lanka.

Japan: Sri Lankan President Upbeat on Internal Conflict

OW1605115096 Tokyo KYODO in English
0902 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO — Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga expressed confidence Thursday [16 May] there would be an early resolution of the ethnic conflict between majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils in her country.

"We believe this problem will be resolved in the near future," she told the Japan National Press Club.

Kumaratunga, who arrived in Japan on Tuesday for a four-day official visit, said her government's policy of fighting Tamil rebels and not attacking ordinary Tamils is widely supported in Sri Lanka. "This policy is now succeeding."

While boasting of the achievements of her democratization efforts, Kumaratunga also called on more foreign enterprises to make direct investments in Sri Lanka.

On relations with Sri Lanka's giant neighbor of India, Kumaratunga said, "we will continue to have close friendship and cooperation with India in the future."

During her stay in Japan, the president met Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, and leading business leaders.

Japan: Business Leaders Discuss Investments With Kumaratunga

BK1605043896 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 16 May 96

[Report by Lakshman Gunasekera in Tokyo — Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TOKYO May 15 — A Rs. 19.2 billion aid package granted by the Japanese government to Sri Lanka today was backed with assurances by Japanese business leaders to President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga that they would help promote investor interest. President Kumaratunga held official talks with Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hasimoto in the late afternoon today during which aid agreement documents were signed. Foreign Ministers Lakshman Kadirgamar and Yukihiko Ikeda signed the documents providing for Japan's 29th soft loan package of Yen 34,362 million (about Rs. 18 billion) and an outright grant of Yen 2,245 million (about Rs. 1.2 billion).

After the signing ceremony at the Prime Minister's office, the Japanese Premier raised a glass of champagne in a toast wishing "great success" in the Sri Lankan leader's mission here and for "greater friendly relations between our two countries".

The main focus of President Kumaratunga's visit to Japan is foreign investment, and in this the President received an encouraging response from the head of the giant Toyota Motor Corporation when he met the President during her meetings with Japanese economic agencies. Toyota Chairman Shoichiroi Toyoda held discussions with the President in his capacity as current head of the Federation of Economic Organisations, the powerful umbrella body of Japan's business community. Mr. Toyoda assured the President he would encourage Japanese firms to explore investment possibilities in Sri Lanka.

Associated with the President in this afternoon's meetings with Japanese economic agencies were Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar, Economic Advisor to the President Dr. Lal Jayawardene and BoI [Board of Investment] Chairman, Thilan Wijesinghe.

In his meeting with the President, Export-Import Bank Governor Hioshi Yasuda told the President that Japan appreciated the new economic reforms pursued by Sri Lanka and promised to encourage Japanese private investment in the island. In talks with officials of the Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund (OECF), the President discussed funding for projects in three areas: energy production expansion, Colombo port expansion, and infra-structure development. OECF President Akira Nishigako, in reviewing progress of existing OECF-funded projects, commented on what he called the "slow process of fund utilisation". The President explained that complex procurement procedures had caused delays and said that the Government was taking steps to simplify procedures.

Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) President Hidero Maki, in his talks with the President, discussed funding for the Government's priority Southern Province Development Program. JICA will look at providing aid for development in highways, fisheries harbours, irrigation, Galle port and telecommunications. Funding was also finalised for a new nurses' training school attached to the Sri Jayawardhanapura Hospital. In his meeting with President, Japan External Trade Organisation chairman Toru Toyushima offered to help improve quality standards of Sri Lankan export products.

Cultural Affairs Minister Lakshman Jayakody, Ethnic Integration Deputy Minister Jeyeraj Fernandopulle and Ambassador N. Navaratnarajah, and other officials were also present at the signing of the aid agreements this evening. The Sri Lankan delegation were then hosted to dinner by the Japanese Premier at his official residence. Tomorrow morning the President will make a state call on Emperor Akhito and Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace. The Sri Lankan delegation departs for the historic city of Kyoto by the famous high-speed 'Shinkansen' train later tomorrow.

The 29th loan package signed today provides soft loans for the North Colombo water supply project, Uda Walawe Left Bank irrigation up-grade and extension projects, Kelanitissa combined cycle power project and the Greater Colombo flood control program.

Japan: Kato: Tokyo Should Transfer More Technology to Asia

OW1605114696 Tokyo KYODO in English 1007 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO — Japan should make a greater contribution in the field of technological cooperation and transfer to Asia, dominant ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Koichi Kato said Thursday [16 May].

Money, such as Japanese yen loans, is now significant, just as nuclear arms were important during the Cold-War era, but technological cooperation and transfer will become just as important in five to 10 years, he said in a lecture sponsored by the economic daily NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN.

Tokyo is trying to promote technology by boosting the national budget for technological development and support of young researchers, so that Japan can "generously" cooperate with its Asia and Pacific neighbors by transferring technology, said Kato.

Kato stressed that fast-growing Asian countries should pay attention to the environment, an area in which Japan can offer technology and knowledge on pollution control.

Turning to agriculture, he called on the United States and Europe to allow Asian nations to open their markets at a pace suitable to each country. He mentioned the Japanese rice market in this context.

Japan: Survey: Support for Hashimoto Rebounds to 44 Percent

OW1605051396 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 15 May 96 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Voter support for the administration of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto has rebounded to 44 percent since last March, reflecting public approval of Hashimoto's recent forays into Washington diplomacy, according to a poll conducted 12 and 13 May by ASAHI SHIMBUN.

In contrast, a telephone poll taken in March — at the height of a lower house dispute over the "jusen" loan liquidation debacle — showed support for the Hashimoto administration at 36 percent of those asked.

This is the fourth time ASAHI SHIMBUN has conducted surveys on the support rate for the Hashimoto administration by either face-to-face or telephone interviews. Although simple comparisons cannot be made because of the different survey methods employed, the support rate for the Hashimoto administration was 61 percent in a telephone survey conducted in January immediately after Hashimoto's inauguration, and 47 percent in a face-to-face poll in February. [passage omitted]

Among supporters of individual political parties belonging to the ruling coalition, 66 percent of those supporting the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] also supported the Hashimoto administration, while 15 percent disapproved. Meanwhile, 36 percent of those supporting the Social Democratic Party [SDP] supported the Hashimoto administration and 46 percent disapproved. In addition, 34 percent of those supporting the New Party Sakigake supported the administration, while 49 percent disapproved. [passage omitted]

Of those who disapprove of the Hashimoto administration, 16 percent, up from 12 percent in February, cited dissatisfaction with its policies, especially with the use of their tax money to liquidate the failed housing loan companies. [passage omitted]

Asked about the Japan-U.S. security treaty and U.S. military base-related problems, 70 percent of those polled said they support the security treaty, and 50 percent showed understanding over strengthening bilateral cooperation in the area of defense. When asked if they support the bilateral agreement to return the U.S. military airfield in Futenma, Okinawa Prefecture, to local control, 74 percent of those polled said they approved, thus indicating that they see that Japanese-U.S. relations are improving. However, 67 percent said that U.S. military bases in Japan should be scaled down.

In the face-to-face survey on 12 and 13 May, 70 percent of those asked said they support the security treaty, up from 64 percent in a similar survey by ASAHI SHIMBUN last October. The survey showed those opposed to the security treaty dropped to 13 percent from 21 percent in the October survey. Support among voters thus gained after the April summit between Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

At the Japan-U.S. summit last month, Hashimoto and Clinton agreed to reinforce bilateral security cooperation. In the survey, 50 percent said they support the agreement, while 31 percent disapprove. Among supporters of individual political parties, 57 percent of respondents who support the LDP and 53 percent who support Shinshinto approve of the agreement. SDP supporters are divided over the issue, with those approving and disapproving the agreement both standing at 41 percent. [passage omitted]

Regarding the jusen issue, 84 percent of those polled disapprove of spending 685 billion yen in taxpayers' money to pay the jusen debt, compared with eight percent who approve of the expenditure. [passage omitted]

Japan: Lower House To Start Debate on 'Jusen' Bills 21 May

OW1605114096 Tokyo KYODO in English 0919 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO — The House of Representatives Diet Steering Committee voted Thursday [16 May] to start full-house debate next Tuesday over a set of six bills to liquidate seven moribund mortgage firms or "jusen" and reform the nation's financial system.

The bills include one related to the use of 685 billion yen in tax money to help mop up losses resulting from the liquidation of the jusen companies under the fiscal 1996 budget.

The committee approved the schedule with a majority of the three ruling coalition parties.

Diet debate over the bills has been stalled over the main opposition Shinshinto's (New Frontier Party) demand that the jusen bill be treated separately.

Shinshinto says that bill is dedicated to the jusen liquidation, while the others are designed to deal with the bad loan problem at financial institutions in general.

Japan: Hashimoto Renews Call for Reviewing People's Burden

OW1605063396 Tokyo KYODO in English 0550 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Thursday [16 May] the government should reconsider what "people's burden" should be in view of the critical situation of the nation's finances.

"The issue of the people's burden is serious. We will fail to find a way to resolve the financial crisis if problems such as the taxation and social security systems are discussed separately," he said.

Hashimoto made the remarks at a joint meeting of four advisory panels to the prime minister and the finance minister.

"People should be well aware to what extent their burden will go," Hashimoto said, adding that the government should inform people how important reform of the financial structure is.

The four panels are the economic council, the tax commission and the advisory council on social security — all advisory bodies to the prime minister — and the fiscal system council, a panel to the finance minister.

The meeting was also attended by Finance Minister Wataru Kubo and other ministers.

The chairmen of the panels, by and large, stressed the need to get the deficit-ridden national finances back on their feet, describing the reconstruction of finances as "an urgent task" facing the government.

Kan Kato, chairman of the tax commission, told the gathering that curbing public spending is not enough. "It is important to strive to limit such expenditures through efficient implementation of public investment and social security," he said.

Japan: Premier's Remark on Fiscal Crisis Pleases Ministry

OW1605133696 Tokyo KYODO in English 1244 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO — A remark by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto linking deficit-ridden national finances and a possible tax hike has bolstered the spirits of Finance Ministry officials who are eager to find ways to rebuild the finance, ministry sources said Thursday [16 May].

"We will fail to find a way to break out (of the fiscal crisis) if problems such as the taxation and social security systems are discussed separately," Hashimoto told a meeting of four major advisory councils earlier in the day.

A senior ministry official said Hashimoto's remark "amounted to bringing a ship when the ministry needs to cross a river," in apparent reference to the ministry's difficulty in convincing the nation to accept a tax hike.

Hashimoto arranged for Thursday's meeting to include the chairman of the advisory council on social security, government officials said.

This was apparently intended to discuss a health and welfare ministry plan to institute a new public health insurance system that would require all citizens aged 40 or over to pay premiums to help finance growing government spending on nursing services for the elderly, analysts said.

The imposition of these premiums in addition to conventional social security taxes will certainly be discussed in connection with the issue of the nation's financial deficit, they said.

"Deliberations will revolve around what percentage of national income should be collected (as ordinary taxes and social security taxes) when the current graying trend of the Japanese populace reaches its peak," an official in the ministry's Budget Bureau said.

Japan: BOJ Head Defends Ministry's Deficit-Cutting Efforts

OW1505133596 Tokyo KYODO in English 1247 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 15 KYODO — Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasuo Matsushita on Wednesday [15 May] defended efforts by the Ministry of Finance to reduce the size of budget deficits, saying the endeavor will cause a favorable impact on economic growth.

"Reduction of fiscal deficits will help stabilize long-term interest rates and boost private sector capital investment, thereby contributing to economic growth," Matsushita said at a news conference.

The remarks could provide support to a position of the Finance Ministry, which finds it difficult to work out additional stimulus steps due to the need to reconstruct the nation's fiscal standing.

It is unusual for the central bank head to refer to the government's fiscal policy.

In a related development, Eisuke Sakakibara, director general of the Finance Ministry's International Finance Bureau, said in a speech in Tokyo on Wednesday that the monetary policy pursued by the central bank conforms with that of the Finance Ministry, and there is no change in their policies for the time being.

Japan: Public Works Spending Up 9.5 Percent in FY95

OW1505141296 Tokyo KYODO in English
1053 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 15 KYODO — Public works spending in fiscal 1995 mounted to 19,216.5 billion yen, an increase of 9.5 percent, a turnaround from an 11.1 percent drop in fiscal 1994, the Construction Ministry said Wednesday [15 May].

The rise reflects the active implementation of public works projects during the year, which ended March 31, as part of economic stimulus measures, the ministry said.

Spending by the central government and public organizations shot up 32.3 percent to 5,130.6 billion yen, while regional governments' spending rose a moderate 3.0 percent to 14,085.8 billion yen.

The disaster restoration outlay grew 107.7 percent, reflecting reconstruction in Kobe and surrounding areas, which were damaged by a killer earthquake in January last year.

In March alone, the ministry said public works spending amounted to 2,140.5 billion yen, up 26.5 percent from a year earlier. Spending by the central government and public corporations increased 34.7 percent and that by regional governments by 21.3 percent, the ministry said.

Japan: Ruling Parties To Call for More Financial Competition

OW1505135796 Tokyo KYODO in English
1324 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 15 KYODO — A project team of the three ruling coalition parties decided at a meeting Wednesday [15 May] to call for more competition in the financial industry, coalition sources said Wednesday.

The project team will come up with a report citing the need to do away with the so-called "convoy system" under which financial authorities see that competition in the industry does not become so strong that weaker financial institutions suffer, the sources said.

Just as ships in a convoy move at the same speed, the system keeps stronger institutions moving in line with the weakest, leading to little competition.

The report will propose limiting the role of financial authorities to taking only supplementary measures in an open, competitive market while urging institutions to take responsibility for their actions, the sources said.

In addition to the abolition of the convoy system, the report will call for a revision in the Bank of Japan Law to clarify the central bank's independence and responsibility in policy-making, the sources said.

It will also cite the need for a system of strict inspection and supervision in the financial industry, they said.

The report, to be drawn up during the ongoing parliamentary session, will serve as a guideline for the proposed reform of the Finance Ministry.

Japan: New Hiring Method of Elite Bureaucrats Mulled

OW1505124496 Tokyo KYODO in English
1208 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 15 KYODO — A ruling coalition panel on administrative reform will draw up a plan by July for the hiring of elite-track central government bureaucrats through uniform tests instead of tests at each ministry, government sources said Wednesday.

A new department in the cabinet would then distribute candidates for posts to individual ministries, giving the cabinet more authority to supervise them, the sources said.

The three-party coalition is planning to begin preparations in fiscal 1997 in order to introduce the new system in fiscal 1999, the sources added.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Wednesday [15 May] reiterated his willingness to adopt the new system as a symbol of his administrative reform drive.

Speaking to reporters at the prime minister's residence, Hashimoto said, "I've been advocating the idea for a long time. But we have to take into consideration each person's aptitude, and the matter of what to do with technical officials will remain to be solved."

Each ministry or agency currently hires its own employees under the direction of the cabinet or national personnel authority, which some critics say leads to rivalry among government bodies.

Hashimoto also said the retirement age for a vice minister should be prolonged to 62 or 63 from the present 56 or 57, adding the new employment system should be promoted in parallel with the retirement age change.

The idea of hiring elite central government bureaucrats through uniform tests is regarded as one of the pillars of the Hashimoto administration's administrative reforms.

Japan: EPA Chief Says Government Bureaus 'Behind the Times'

OW1605060896 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 15 May 96 Morning Edition p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] At a press conference held after the Cabinet meeting on 14 May, Director-General Shusei Tanaka of the Economic Planning Agency [EPA] singled out for criticism the Ministry of Finance's [MOF] attitude of stressing "financial crisis," saying: "It is impossible for the ministry to win fairness and trust as a flagman for the financial reconstruction unless it goes so far as to offer to sacrifice its own interests, such as its financial administration rights."

Citing the success story of administrative and financial reform told by the New Zealand prime minister who visited Japan last week, Tanaka indicated his opinion: "Reform is the trend of the times. Government should be made smaller by reducing the authority of ministries." He then made a request to the MOF, saying: "Before they stress the necessity of making the accounts balance, they should try every process so that what they say will be persuasive. Reconstruction is not possible unless they work their fingers to the bone."

Moreover, citing the case of the Health and Welfare Ministry, which has been shaken by the HIV-tainted blood scandal, he made clear-cut criticism, saying: "I have heard there are bureaucrats who object to the methods of Health and Welfare Minister Naoto Kan. It is surprising that there are still those who cannot understand a worldwide trend. The consciousness of people in government offices is behind the times."

Japan: Firm To Give PRC Enhanced Oil Recovery Technology

OW1605084196 Tokyo KYODO in English 0755 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO — Japan National Oil Corp. will offer to provide China with sophisticated technology to recover oil from oil fields using a technique that applies pressure on the field, officials of the Agency of Natural Resources and Energy said Thursday [16 May].

The quasi-governmental organization will also offer to provide China National Petroleum Corp. with advanced know-how to assess the oil layers of oil fields whose reserves are on the decline, the officials said.

The technology is designed for oil production at China's three major oil fields — the Daqing oil field in the northern province of Heilongjiang, the Shengli oil field in Shandong Province and the Liaohe oil field in Liaoning Province, they said.

The enhanced oil recovery technology involves applying air pressure on the oil layers of depleted oil fields with vapor and gas and dissolving obstacles that are blocking recovery by injecting special chemical agents.

China started importing crude oil in 1993 to meet burgeoning demand for industrial development.

China produced a combined total of 2.95 million barrels per day in 1994 from its onshore and offshore oil fields. The three oil fields accounted for two-thirds of the total, and their combined annual output corresponds with a quarter of Saudi Arabia's overall annual output.

Japan National Oil will evaluate and assess the current conditions of the oil layers of the three oil fields on the basis of information to be provided by the Chinese side in a bid to select specific enhanced oil recovery techniques, they said.

Japan: LDP Deliberates Acquisition of Spy Satellite

OW1505121096 Tokyo KYODO in English 1155 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 15 KYODO — Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) members discussed Wednesday [15 May] whether Japan should have a spy satellite, inviting opinions from Defense Agency officials and representatives of satellite makers.

LDP panels on foreign affairs and security issues held a joint session to discuss whether the nation needs its own satellites to collect information for military purposes, party officials said. The LDP is the largest bloc in the tripartite ruling coalition.

At present, Japan buys photographs taken by U.S. earth observation satellites, and also is provided with visual images sent from U.S. spy satellites, according to the Defense Agency.

Masahiro Akiyama, chief of the agency's Defense Policy Bureau, earlier said the agency is interested in the issue because spy satellites provide "an excellent means of gathering information," but there are no plans at present to acquire one.

At the meeting, satellite makers told panel members Japan is capable of producing such satellites and rockets for sending them into space, the officials said.

Representatives of the companies were quoted as saying it would probably take eight years to develop, produce and launch a Japanese spy satellite. They said it would cost some 200 billion yen to build a spy satellite, a spare satellite, another satellite for transmitting data and a ground station.

The LDP will continue studying the issue, and seek further opinions from the Cabinet Information Research Office and the Science and Technology Agency, the officials said.

Japan: LDP Researches Domestic Spy Satellite Development

OW1605073296 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 16 May 96 Morning Edition P 1

[By reporter Haruyuki Aikawa]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 15 May, the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] convened a joint meeting of its Research Commission on Foreign Affairs [RCFA] and Research Commission on Security [RCS] and began studying the possibility of Japan developing and acquiring its own reconnaissance satellite. This will be the party's first full-scale study regarding Japan's possessing its own reconnaissance satellite. Taro Nakayama, chairman of the RCFA, explained: "Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto replied (to a question at a lower house plenary session on 8 April) that 'the government is interested in the acquisition of reconnaissance satellites,' and we have thus begun researching this matter." Nakayama also indicated that the commission plans to conduct studies on the reconnaissance satellite along with its relation to disaster and environmental monitoring satellites. The issue of acquiring spy satellites has been a taboo issue in Japan, but now that the LDP has stepped into this area, a controversy is likely to develop among the ruling coalition parties over this issue coupled with the issue of how to study ways in which Japan could respond to contingencies in the Far East. Research on the latter topic has begun as a result of the recent redefining of the Japanese-U.S. security arrangement.

Participating in the joint meeting of the two LDP commissions were officials in charge of the matter from the Foreign Ministry, Defense Agency, and the NEC Corporation, a satellite maker.

An NEC official gave a thorough briefing, saying: "Total development costs will be 210 billion yen, including the reconnaissance satellite and another satellite for transmitting data, a spare unit, and a ground station. The satellite's resolution will be 30-centimeter square blocks. It will require eight years for development, and if we can make a decision now, it will be possible to start using the satellite in 2003." In this manner, NEC stressed that Japan can develop, launch, and operate a reconnaissance satellite that is equal in performance with U.S. reconnaissance satellites by using its own technology.

A DA official explained that it can "keep track of moves at air bases and harbors" based on photographs (with resolutions from 10 to 30 meters) taken by U.S. and French earth resources technology satellites." He added that in 1996, two U.S. firms started selling satellite photographs with resolutions around one meter, which provide about 100 times as much information as photographs taken by earlier model satellites, and the DA is "very interested in and is studying" the possibility of purchasing such photographs. A Foreign Ministry official explained: "We receive information from the United States. However, we are thinking about how we can gain access to more efficient and accurate information."

Merely to discuss the issue of possessing spy satellites has been considered taboo in Japan for fear that it would infringe on a Diet resolution (drawn up in 1969) that stipulates the peaceful use of space. In 1985, however, the government came up with a view that the term "peaceful use does not designate nonmilitary use, and it is possible to use satellites that are for general use." In this way, the government paved the way for the Self Defense Forces to use communication satellites. Consequently, with commercial satellites rapidly gaining higher resolutions and the widespread use of this technology, the idea that "an environment in which Japan could possibly possess reconnaissance satellites" (according to a senior RCS official) is beginning to emerge.

During the review of the Japanese-U.S. security arrangement, it appears that debate will now surround whether to rely on U.S. commercial satellites or develop Japan's own reconnaissance satellite — the issue of "cost versus results" (according to Nakayama).

Japan: LDP Ponders Abolition of Nationality Requirement

OW1505120796 Tokyo KYODO in English 1036 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 15 KYODO — Two Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) committees Wednesday [15 May] discussed the party's policy requiring Japanese nationality for government employees after a local government scrapped the requirement, party officials said.

Members from the LDP's home affairs division and research commission on local government systems discussed the party's position set in 1953 in light of Monday's decision by the city of Kawasaki, neighboring Tokyo, to scrap the nationality requirement for municipal workers.

Kawasaki became the first major city to eliminate the requirement after the city's personnel commission recommended the employment of non-Japanese residents at posts below the level of section chief.

Members of the two LDP panels raised fears that the abolition of the nationality requirement may cause personnel problems there in the future by preventing non-Japanese employees from promotion to senior posts, the officials said.

The LDP's high-powered Policy Affairs Research Council is scheduled to meet Thursday on the issue.

Japan: Court Says Korean Cannot Take Government Promotion Exam

*OW1605121896 Tokyo KYODO in English
1057 GMT 16 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 16 KYODO — The Tokyo District Court on Thursday [16 May] rejected a second-generation South Korean resident's demand that she be allowed to take a local civil service promotion exam, saying the Constitution does not guarantee foreigners the right to become public servants who exercise governmental authority.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government barred Chong hyang-kun, a 46-year-old public health nurse, from taking the exam because she is not a Japanese citizen.

She filed suit in September 1994 against the Metropolitan Government, seeking the right to take the exam for a management position and 2 million yen in damages.

Presiding Judge Kenji Endo said, "the Constitution does not guarantee that foreigners can assume the posts of public servants who exercise governmental authority."

This is the first legal judgment on local government bans on hiring foreigners as managers.

Chong became the first foreign public health nurse in Tokyo in 1988. Having fulfilled all requirements for a management position, such as a certain number of successive years on the job, she applied in 1994 to take the promotion exam.

But the Tokyo Metropolitan Government refused to accept her application, saying Japanese nationality is necessary for positions that involve the exercise of public powers.

In delivering Thursday's ruling, Endo, however, said the Constitution does not prohibit foreigners from becoming public servants who are "indirectly" concerned with the exercise of governmental authority.

Endo said Japan's Local Government Employee Law allows foreigners to become local public servants if their positions are supplemental or technical.

Japan: Okinawa To Add Names of 82 Britons to War Memorial

*OW1505123896 Tokyo KYODO in English
1236 GMT 15 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, May 15 KYODO — The names of 82 British servicemen are among 1,968 names Okinawa Prefecture will add to a memorial listing all persons killed in World War II fighting on the southwestern island, prefectural officials said Wednesday [15 May].

The work of inscribing the names will begin Thursday for completion in time for the June 23 day of remembrance for those who died in the fighting, the officials said.

The prefecture previously lacked adequate information on British soldiers who died in the campaign for the Miyako and Yaeyama Islands, which lie at Japan's southwestern extremity between the main island of Okinawa and Taiwan.

But Hiroshi Hosaka, a professor at the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa, confirmed during a visit to Britain in July the existence of a list of Britons who died in the fighting.

The prefecture then formally requested the list containing the 82 names from the British Government.

Also to go on the memorial, which was completed last year, are the names of three Koreans, 668 people from Okinawa, and 1,215 people from the rest of Japan.

The memorial is in Itoman City on the southern tip of Okinawa island, where some of the heaviest fighting occurred.

Once the work is complete, the memorial will hold the names of 236,095 war dead, they said.

Foreigners on the list will include 14,005 from the United States, 82 each from Britain and North Korea, 54 from South Korea, and 28 from Taiwan.

North Korea

DPRK: ROK-U.S. Air Force Heads' 10 May Meeting Decried

SK1605060896 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1221 GMT 15 May 96

[Commentary by Yun Pyong-son: "It Is a Delusion To Pin Expectations on Aerial Supremacy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting between the chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force and the chief of staff of the puppet Air Force was held in South Korea on 10 May. At this war confab, the two warmongers discussed a so-called new method of war centered on air forces and agreed to strengthen military cooperation between the U.S. Air Force and the South Korean puppet Air Force.

This not only shows that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean warmaniacs are attempting to lead their war exercises for a northward invasion to a graver stage, but also demonstrates that their war frenzy is becoming more reckless.

As everyone knows, recently traitor Kim Yong-sam sent his stooges, including the puppet prime minister and the puppet national defense minister, to the frontline area not only to inspect the state of preparations for a war of northward invasion, but also to finalize strategies and tactics to launch a surprise attack against the northern half of the Republic on the land and sea and in the sky. In particular, recently the South Korean puppet military circles released to the press their five-stage operation 5027, a plan to provoke a war of northward invasion.

What we cannot but pay attention to is the fact that at this juncture, the U.S. and South Korean warmaniacs met in Seoul and discussed a new method of war.

Now, what is the new method of war centered on aerial supremacy that the chiefs of staff of the U.S. Air Force and the South Korean puppet Air Force clamored about?

It is the method in which in the event that a war breaks out on the Korean peninsula, they first launch a concentrated bombing attack on military targets in the northern half of the Republic by mobilizing hundreds of combat aircraft and then wage land battles only after completely smashing the targets. In other words, after turning military bases, cities, and rural areas in the northern half of the Republic into a wilderness of cinders and ashes, they move into the next phase of battle.

It is by no means accidental that the two air force chiefs of staff of the United States and South Korea reconfirmed such a new method of war this time. The U.S. imperialists and South Korea's military bosses have long made preparations to introduce such a new method of war of creating a wilderness of cinders and ashes.

As has already been reported, last April the U.S. imperialists perpetrated aerial spy activities against our side's areas on more than 200 occasions. Last month, the United States also carried out photography and electronic reconnaissance activities against our strategic targets by mobilizing various types of strategic and tactical reconnaissance aircraft such as UE, RC-135, E3, RV-1, P3, and EH-60.

The U.S. Air Force and the South Korean puppet Air Force have staged an aerial war exercise for a northward invasion everyday, using the data collected through such reconnaissance activities. Not long ago, the South Korean puppet Air Force staged an exercise for middle- and high-altitude aerial infiltration into our side's areas by organizing a large-scale flying formation. On the West Sea, it also staged an attack exercise simulating our side's naval fleet by mobilizing four combat wings.

Through these aerial exercises, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet Air Force are attempting to introduce the new method of war of turning the northern half of the Republic into a wilderness of cinders and ashes in a future emergency on the Korean peninsula. Herein lies the grave, dangerous nature of the current war confab.

The reason that we cannot but more seriously view the two bellicose maniacs' current war confab is the fact that the chief of staff of the South Korean puppet Air Force clamored about building a so-called strategic air force. In fact, this has revealed the South Korean warmongers' attempt to introduce U.S. strategic bombers which can fly across continents to gain supremacy over us at a single stroke.

As has already been reported, last February the United States made public a B-1 strategic bomber for the first time in South Korea. Since then, it has continuously sent such strategic bombers to South Korea.

What is more serious is the fact that last April, the U.S. bellicose elements announced an operational plan to destroy artillery positions of the People's Army in the DMZ by mobilizing B-52 strategic bombers in the event that a war breaks out on the Korean peninsula.

The chief of staff of the South Korean puppet Air Force is attempting to trigger a northward invasion by introducing these evil, mass-destruction bombers in South Korea.

As all of this shows that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean warmongers are attempting to persistently realize their wild ambition for northward invasion on the strength of their so-called aerial supremacy. However, this is a delusion.

As history has shown, victory in a war cannot be decided by aerial supremacy. It is indeed foolish for the United States to try to swallow us by force.

If the United States persistently forces a war upon us, we will bestow punishment a thousandfold upon the aggressors with the united strength of the leader [suryong], the party, and the masses.

The South Korean warmongers, as well, had better keep in mind that they cannot survive in such a war and had better not act indiscreetly.

DPRK: Imperialists Suffer From 'More Serious Crisis' Than DPRK

SK1605083496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0813 GMT 16 May 96

["NODONG SINMUN Says Imperialists Being Faced With Crisis" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA) — The imperialists are now loudmouthed about "end and crisis" of socialism. But it is the imperialists who are suffering from a more serious crisis.

NODONG SINMUN says this in an article today.

The daily takes the United States as an example to explain that the imperialists are going to ruin, faced with a serious crisis.

The U.S. is finding itself further isolated by the world people, the daily says and continues:

It has long used such words as "peace", "detente", "democracy", "cooperation" and "assistance" in a crafty way to veil its aggressive and predatory nature and foster illusions about itself among the world people. With its aggression and interference escalated, however, its aggressive and crafty nature has been revealed and, since the end of the cold war, it has been brought into bold relief.

Strength and dollar, the mainstay of the U.S. policy of aggression and war, have become powerless.

In recent years, the U.S. has intensified pressure on and interference in other nations over the "nuclear issue", but to no effect.

After the end of the cold war, the U.S. position has been weakened still further in the capitalist community. For the serious crisis by the continued moves of aggression and war, its public coffer has been empty, making it impossible for the U.S. to overpower other nations with dollars.

The U.S. has also lost the control of its "allies". There is a strong inclination in them to free themselves from the U.S. control.

The imperialists are trying to divert public attention elsewhere from their serious crisis by means of false propaganda about other nations' "crisis" and "collapse". In this way, they intend to see vacillation among the world progressive people advocating independence, progress and socialism and arrest the current of history.

It is a law that independence, progress and socialism emerge victorious and imperialism perishes. The imperialists cannot escape their doom.

DPRK: Mass Rally Marks 1980 Kwangju Uprising in South

SK1605102996 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA) — Pyongyangites and overseas Koreans met at the Pyongyang indoor stadium today to mark the 16th anniversary of the heroic Kwangju popular uprising in South Korea.

Participating in the rally were more than 10,000 people.

The uprising in May 1980 was an anti-imperialist, anti-fascist resistance of South Korean people against the U.S. imperialists' colonial rule over South Korea and continued "Yusin" fascist dictatorship and for democracy and national reunification.

The rally was attended by Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and Vice-President Yi Chong-ok, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], WPK Kim Chung-nin, Vice-Premier Chang Chol, leading officials of party and power bodies and social organizations, university presidents and chief of the Pyongyang mission of the National Democratic Front of South Korea Yi Chong-sang.

In his speech Yang Hyong-sop, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., WPK and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, said the uprising dealt a heavy blow at the colonial military fascist rule by outside forces and their stooges, greatly inspired the South Korean people in the anti-imperialist, anti-fascist struggle and the oppressed people of the world in their national liberation struggle. It also marked an occasion in developing the anti-U.S. struggle for independence to a new higher stage in South Korea, he said, and continued:

The heroic resistance involved youths, students, workers, peasants, intellectuals, religionists, businessmen and others, one million in all, and it spilled over to extensive areas of North and South Cholla Provinces.

The United States transferred more than 70,000 puppet army soldiers, tanks, airplanes, heavy military equipment and lethal weapons under its control to the Chon Tu-hwan fascist clique to crack down on the resistance. The fascists massacred some 5,000 uprisers and wounded over 14,000 for some ten days.

The Kwangju massacre committed by the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u group under the manipulation of the U.S. imperialists was the most cruel fratricide unprecedented in history.

Though sixteen years has passed since the uprising, the desire of the uprisers has not yet been realised. It is because of the U.S. invariable policy of the domination of South Korea and the despicable treacherous acts of South Korea's present rulers, who have engaged in flunkeyism, fascism, confrontation and war preparations.

If a war breaks out in the Korean Peninsula where updated Armed Forces of the North and the South are standing face to face with the Military Demarcation Line in between, it will not only plunge all the people in the North and South into a great disaster but gravely wreck peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

The South Korean rulers, in the hope of getting out of their serious crisis, have intentionally rendered the situation strained, while further intensifying fascist suppression of students and people. They have arrested en masse members of the South side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) and are going to penalize them.

They have protected the traitors Chon and No, murderers who should be punished, staging nominal trials for them. This is an intolerable challenge to the martyrs of the resistance and students and people who are following them to fight undauntedly.

The speaker further said:

The United States, which is a signatory to the Korean Armistice Agreement and is directly responsible for peace in the Korean Peninsula, must judge the developments lucidly, do things substantially conducive to the peace and security of Korea and renounce a hostile policy towards the DPRK, a legacy from the cold war.

If the South Korean authorities are truly interested in the country's peace and reunification, they must discard the wornout conception of confrontation, stop war moves against the North, scrap anti-reunification fascist laws including the "National Security Law" and immediately release the illegally arrested pro-reunification patriots and students.

In their speeches representatives of various social strata said that with the traitor Kim Yong-sam, who is in concert with the Kwangju murderers, left alone, a genuine solution to the Kwangju problem can never be expected, nor can all the fellow countrymen escape a war disaster. They called on the South Korean people to oust him, bring all of the murderers to judgement by history and settle their grudge.

DPRK: 'Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation' Guidelines Review Noted

SK1505084796 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0831 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA) — The Japanese Government formally began studying "contingency plans" on May 13 to deal with "possible emergencies in the Far East," according to a report from Tokyo.

This is part of the review of the "guidelines for Japan-U.S. defense cooperation."

The review is arousing vigilance as it aims at the Korean peninsula.

DPRK: U.S. Resident Writes Article Praising Kim Chong-il

SK1505084096 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0828 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA) — U.S. resident Sonu Hak-won, honorary chairman of the U.S. headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification [Pomminnyon], made public an article headlined "Kim Chong-il, He Is the Leader of the Time".

The author began an emigrant life in 1938 to get away from the Japanese police crackdown upon his protest against the Japanese imperialists' occupation of Korea and once wrote about the 90-year history of emigration of Koreans.

He said in the article:

It is impossible to take a view of the world or to picture the future world to oneself without Pyongyang at the present time.

It is a good luck to all people aspiring after a new life that there is Pyongyang of chuche, Korea of chuche, indicating the bright road of human existence and progress at the time of the world commotion.

It is under the leadership of Kim Chong-il that Pyongyang and Korea could be a source of light giving a bright future to humankind, a source of strength propelling the time and history.

The chuche idea created by the great President Kim Il-song and carried forward by Kim Chong-il is the first great thought of the times in human history which was duly proved by history.

Standing in the position of light source in our era today is Kim Chong-il, a distinguished great man produced by the Korean nation. He is the leader of socialism, the only person representing the time and the future of humankind.

While reading famous works published by General Kim Chong-il, one deeply realises that there are Korea and the world, the nation and humankind, and present and future always together in his ken and thinking.

He is the leader who was elected by the general will of the nation, enjoying an absolute prestige for his practical activities of leading state affairs as a whole for tens of years and his outstanding exploits.

My several visits to the homeland made me feel sure that the basic factor of singlehearted unity in Korea lies in the greatness of him to whom the people entrust their destinies.

The matchless might of Korea, the invincible strength of Korea, comes from the integral whole of the leader and the people based on the absolute greatness of the leader and the reverence of all the people and the whole nation for their leader. Led by the great Kim Chong-il Korea will shine and prosper for ever.

DPRK: ROK 'Military Provocations' Near Demarcation Line

SK1605024396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0239 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets committed military provocations against the DPRK near the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] in the central sector of the front on May 14, according to military sources.

Puppet army soldiers stationed in MP [military police] posts were suddenly called out to occupy combat positions and took firing postures for many hours, leveling already-deployed 90 mm recoilless guns and 12.7 mm machine guns loaded with live cartridges at soldiers of the Korean People's Army.

If the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique, who have turned the Demilitarized Zone into starting positions to attack the North, bring the situation on the Korean peninsula to the outbreak of war, they will certainly face a thousand-fold reprisal.

DPRK: Arrest of Pomminnyon Members Denounced

SK1505043196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0324 GMT 15 May 96

["Hideous Crime of Kim Yong-sam Group" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA) — The Kim Yong-sam group demanded prison terms of up to seven years for Kang Hui-nam, chairman of the South side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), and eight other members of Pomminnyon. And they demanded prison terms of up to 12 years for three members of Pomminnyon including its Vice-Chairman Chon Chang-il.

Branding this fascist crime as a vicious challenge to the aspirations of the nation for peaceful reunification, a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN today says:

The members of the South side headquarters of Pomminnyon are pro- reunification, patriotic-minded figures who conducted righteous activities out of a single patriotic desire to achieve the reconciliation, unity and reunification of the nation. Therefore, there is no ground to put them on trial or to impose heavy penalties upon them.

This notwithstanding, the Kim Yong-sam group brought charges against the righteous activities of the South side headquarters of Pomminnyon and punish those concerned with the organisation on the strength of the notorious "National Security Law".

By blocking at the point of bayonet the patriotic activities of the South side headquarters of Pomminnyon for reunification, which are supported and welcomed by the whole nation, and demanding heavy penalties for its members, the Kim Yong-sam revealed once again that they are a gang of truculent traitors and sworn enemy of reunification who turn their back on the nation and are opposed to reunification.

They must look straight at the situation, discard the penalties demanded for the members of the South side headquarters of Pomminnyon and release all the imprisoned pro-reunification, patriotic-minded figures at once.

DPRK: ROK Urged To Release Pomminnyon Members

*SK1505093496 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0841 GMT 15 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA) — The Kim Yong-sam fascist clique on May 8 demanded jail terms of between four and seven years and suspension of qualification of between four and seven years for nine hardcore members of the South side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) including its Chairman Kang Hui-nam, now behind bars, on the charge of violation of the "National Security Law", according to a report.

On May 10, they demanded heavy penalties, including 12-year prison term and 12-year suspension of qualification for Chon Chang-il, vice-chairman of the South side headquarters of Pomminnyon, and two others.

And, on May 11, the puppet clique sentenced Yu Toksang, chairman of the Trade Union of the Communications Company, who was prosecuted for organizing the struggle for the right to existence in May last year, to a jail term of two and half years and a probation of three years.

Activities of the South Korean people of various strata, who turned out in the struggle for national reunification and the right to existence, can not be criminalized or be an object of repression.

The Kim Yong-sam group must stop suppression of them and release them unconditionally.

DPRK: Society To Rescue Arrested Pomminnyon Members Formed

*SK1605033996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0237 GMT 16 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA) — A meeting was held in Tokyo on May 9 to form a society for rescuing those related to the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon). The society consists of Japanese public figures supporting prisoners of conscience in South Korea.

The meeting heard a letter from member of the House of Councillors Hideo Den, who is representative of the society, vowing to make all efforts to support the South Korean people who are suffering from human rights violations.

Speeches also were made by Representative of the National Council of Societies for Rescuing Japan-Resident Korean Political Prisoners in South Korea Shigeru Yoshimatsu, Vice-Chairman of the Japan Headquarters of Pomminnyon Choe Chol-kyo and Social-Democratic member of the House of Representatives Hidenori Sasaki.

Toru Kochi, director of the Secretariat of the Society for Rescuing Those Related to Pomminnyon, in a report called for extending active support and encouragement to Pomminnyon in the struggle to reunify the country in defiance of any suppression.

The meeting adopted an action program of the society and a letter urging the South Korean authorities to immediately release those related to Pomminnyon and stop suppression of the reunification movement.

DPRK: Release of All Pro-Reunification 'Patriots' Urged

*SK1505100296 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0847 GMT 15 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA) — The South side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) and the Emergency Measure Committee for Defence of Pomminnyon and release of pro-reunification patriots made public a statement on May 9, denouncing the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique for demanding heavy penalties for the imprisoned Chairman Kang Hui-nam and hardcore members of the Pomminnyon South side headquarters, according to a report.

The statement said this shows once again that so long as the "National Security Law [NSL]" exists and the Kim Yong-sam anti-reunification group pursue "new security-oriented politics" with recourse to the "law", the reunification movement of the fellow countrymen will be unable to evade such a sacrifice as today.

It urged the Kim Yong-sam group in the name of the 70 million people to repeal the "NSL" and unconditionally release the imprisoned Pomminnyon members and declared that the emergency measure committee would start hunger strike from May 9.

DPRK: Daily on ROK Ruling Party 'Tricks' To Secure Majority

*SK1605032596 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0242 GMT 16 May 96*

["NODONG SINMUN on Political Robbery of 'Election' Losers in S. Korea" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA) — South Korea's "New Korea Party" (NKP) is now trying hard to poach opposition and independent "lawmakers-elect" in such a way as bribing them with money and other valuables and pressurizing them on "charge of vote rigging," backed by fascist power.

NODONG SINMUN today says such an act is a despicable and shameless political robbery aimed at cobbling together an overall majority in the puppet National Assembly by means of plots, irrespective of the results of the "election".

In a commentary the daily says the traitor Kim Yong-sam is doing everything conceivable in his efforts to cover up the defeat of the "NKP" in the "election", claiming that in the "election the people preferred reforms in stability."

Though the Kim Yong-sam group are resorting to political swindles and tricks to recapture an overall parliamentary majority and continue fascist arbitrariness, the South Korean people who voted for opposition parties will never allow them to do it, the daily says, and continues:

The traitor Kim and his group must promptly step down to meet the popular demand expressed in the "election". This is the only choice of the traitorous group, the target of impeachment.

DPRK: Pyongyang Expects Additional Rice Aid From Japan

OW1605094596 Tokyo KYODO in English
0923 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 16 KYODO — North Korea voiced hope Thursday [16 May] for unconditional additional rice aid from Japan to overcome a food shortage caused by last year's flooding.

"We would like to consider accepting rice support if it is unconditional, unlike last year's," Yi Song-nok, vice chairman of the External Economic Affairs Commission, told a group of Japanese reporters.

Japan agreed last year to supply a total of 500,000 tons of rice to North Korea, including 150,000 tons for free, on condition it be used for civilian use only.

On Wednesday, Yi Myong-pong, vice director of the Disarmament and Peace Institute, said the food shortage appears to be temporary.

The Japanese press corps is visiting North Korea at the invitation of the institute, a think tank affiliated with the Foreign Ministry.

Yi thanked Japan for its rice aid last year, describing it as an "unprecedented event in the history of North Korea-Japan relations."

On the scale of any additional rice aid from Japan, Yi suggested Pyongyang hopes to get several hundred thousand tons of rice from Japan.

Yi said North Korea told the leader of a delegation from Japan's ruling coalition last year that Pyongyang wants to take over all of Japan's surplus rice at 800,000 tons. "We have received only 500,000 tons so far, however," Yi said.

On other topics, Yi said North Korea is making "a change in the direction of its external economic policy" so as to join the world's market economy and expressed hopes for promoting trade with Japan before normalizing diplomatic ties.

Yi asked Japan to lift a ban on exports of high-tech products and to apply trade insurance for exports to North Korea and to extend loans from the governmental Export-Import Bank of Japan for bilateral trade projects.

Yi said North Korea particularly hopes to get Japanese technology for oil exploration off North Korea.

DPRK: KULLOJA Delegation Returns From PRC

SK1505105496 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
1300 GMT 12 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of KULLOJA led by editor in chief Yang Hyong-pok returned from its visit to the PRC by train on 12 May. Yi Chang-son, deputy editor in chief of KULLOJA; and Sui Xudong, acting PRC ambassador to the DPRK, received the delegation at the Pyongyang Station.

DPRK: Egypt, Uruguay Political Parties Support DPRK's Proposal

SK1505095996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0845 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA) — Egyptian and Uruguayan political parties published statements concerning the situation of the Korean peninsula.

The Liberal Party of Egypt in a statement on May 7 said that the only solution to the grave tension on the Korean peninsula is to establish a new peace mechanism in place of the present armistice system.

Expressing full support to the DPRK's proposal for establishing a new peace mechanism, the statement said that the peace-loving people in the world would extend full support to the initiative.

The Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Uruguay in a statement on May 9 reaffirmed support to the principle of the right to self-determination and the just struggle of the Korean people to put an end to the presence of U.S. troops as "Military Police" in South Korea and to achieve stability of the Korean peninsula and reunify the country in an independent and peaceful way.

The statement also called on all the peace-loving people and democratic forces in the world to express solidarity with the Korean people's struggle and urge the United States and the South Korean authorities to immediately stop war threat.

DPRK: Week of North Korea-Iran Friendship Begins in Pyongyang

SK1505034196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0239 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA) — A week of Korea-Iran friendship has begun to mark the 7th anniversary of Iranian Islamic leader Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's visit to Korea.

The opening ceremony of the week was held in Pyongyang on May 14.

Present at the ceremony were Yi Chol-pong, minister of city management and chairman of the Korea-Iran Friendship Association, other officials concerned and working people in the city. Iranian Ambassador to Korea Seyyed Morteza Mirheydari, his embassy officials and a delegation of the Ministry of Public Health of Iran were invited there.

Speeches were made at the ceremony.

Then, the participants looked round pictures introducing Iran and appreciated an Iranian feature film [as received].

DPRK: Delegations From Iran, Laos, Japan, Visit Mansu Hill

SK1505041396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0237 GMT 15 May 96

[Names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA) — A delegation of the Ministry of Public Health of Iran led by Seyed M. Sazaeri, chairman of the Committee of Public Health and Welfare, a delegation of the Kaysone Phomvihane Museum Construction Committee of Laos headed by its Chairman Bouasy Chaleunsouk and a delegation of senior public relations officials for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan visited the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill, Pyongyang, to pay their respects for him on Tuesday.

They laid floral baskets and bouquets and made a bow before the statue.

The Iranian delegation arrived here on the same day.

DPRK: WPK Receives Solidarity Messages From Foreign Leaders

SK1505030396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0233 GMT 15 May 96

[All names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA) — Solidarity messages came to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea from a foreign party and party leaders.

They came from the Council of the Union of Communist Parties-the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, chairman of the Leadership Council of the Arab Islamic Democratic Movement of Jordan Yussef Abubakr, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Algerian National Liberation Front Boualem Benhamouda, chairman of the Communist Party of Germany Hans Wauer, chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Finland (Unity) Yrjo Hakanen and coordinator of the People's Party of Costa Rica Eduardo Mora Balverde.

The messages extended firm support and solidarity for the Korean people in their struggle to ease military tension on the Korean peninsula and defend the nation's dignity and the country's sovereignty.

DPRK: Malaysian Premier Receives DPRK Delegation

SK1605042096 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamed Datuk Sri Dr., chairman of the United Malays National Organization, received a delegation of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] headed by Kim Yang-kon, vice director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, on 11 May.

The first deputy chairman and the general secretary of the United Malays National Organization attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the head of the delegation conveyed the greetings from the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il to Chairman Mahathir bin Mohamed Datuk Sri Dr.

The chairman expressed heart-felt appreciation for this and called on the head of the delegation to convey his warm greetings to the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The chairman expressed appreciation to the WPK delegation for attending the 50th founding anniversary of the United Malays National Organization and said they had deep interest in the matter of building a durable peace in Korea.

He uttered that he knew very well that the talented DPRK people had achieved lots of accomplishments in the work for national prosperity.

He pointed out that the WPK and DPRK people are sure to accomplish far bigger achievements in the work for national prosperity under the wise leadership of respected His Excellency Kim Chong-il.

He wished respected His Excellency Kim Chong-il a long and healthy life and a happy life.

DPRK Ambassador Presents Credentials to Tanzanian President

SK1505105096 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GM 12 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] No Min-su, newly appointed DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, presented credentials to Tanzanian President Benjamin William Mkapa on 8 May. During the meeting, the ambassador conveyed greetings from the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il to President Benjamin William Mkapa. The president expressed his gratitude and asked the ambassador to convey his warm regards to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Commenting on friendly and cooperative relations between Tanzania and the DPRK, the president said that the relations were built by the special attention and care of the great leader [widaehan suryong] His Excellency President Kim Il-song, founder of the DPRK, and of His Excellency Julius K. Nyerere, founder of the United Republic of Tanzania. He said that the friendly and cooperative relations are developing positively due to the common features of the past situation and common aspiration for the future. He stressed that Tanzania will actively exert efforts to further develop friendly and cooperative relations with the DPRK.

He mentioned his past visit to the DPRK and the honor of having met with the great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song, and said that he has never forgotten those honorable days. He said that as they did in the past, the Tanzanian Government and people will support the efforts of the DPRK Government and people to end the division of the Korean peninsula and achieve a peaceful reunification at the United Nations and other international forums.

DPRK: Kim Il-song's Works Studied Abroad

SK1505093296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0838 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA) — Seminars on the great leader President Kim Il-song's famous work "10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" were held by the Malian group for the study of Kimilsongism-Kimchogilism, the group for the study of the chuche idea of President Kim Il-song of the Association of Cambodian Students, the Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, group for the study of Kimilsongism and the Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, group for the study of the chuche philosophy on the occasion of his birthday.

Reporters and speakers said that the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation is a fair patriotic initiative that comprehensively indicates the fundamental problems arising in removing obstacles to Korea's reunification and achieving the country's reunification by the united strength of the nation at the present time.

A seminar on his work "Answers to Questions Raised by a Delegation of Journalists of the CNN International of the United States" was held by the Nigerian national committee for the study of the chuche idea.

Speakers said that the work represents the clear attitude of the Korean people towards "nuclear pressure move" of the United States and its puppets against the DPRK and the Korean people's will for improving relations with the U.S. and achieving peaceful reunification of the country in an independent way.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Work Praised

SK1505101696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0853 GMT 15 May 96

["Great Leadership Makes Spirit of Heroic Struggle Prevalent Throughout Country" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 15 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN today carries an article contributed by labour hero Kim Chol-son, director of the Political Department of the Ministry of Marine Transport, on the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the publication of "Let Us All Live and Struggle Like Heroes", a famous work of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il (May 15, 1988).

The article, titled "Great Leadership That Makes Spirit of Heroic Struggle Prevalent Throughout Country", notes the highly important work, which set forth militant tasks for powerfully arousing the entire people to heroic struggle for an incessant upsurge in socialist construction, is displaying a great vitality with each passing day.

It says:

Now the Korean people are honouring themselves as noble-minded people intensely loyal to the party and the leader with their all devoted to society and the collective and as heroic people with a firm revolutionary faith and full of militant stamina and vigor.

The spirit of heroic struggle rife in Korean society is a praise-worthy fruition of the wise leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The ingenuity of the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il over the work lies, above all, in the fact that he has always paid deep attention to ideological education for arming the entire people with the chuche idea.

The Korean people consider the chuche idea to be their steadfast faith and think and behave as required by this idea in any time and place.

Its ingenuity is found also in the fact that he puts forward model heroes of the times and energetically leads the entire people to actively follow suit.

Thanks to the energetic leadership and warm care of the respected General Kim Chong-il, the communist trait has been brought into full play.

To cover a blasting handgrenade with one's body to defend the portraits of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and General Kim Chong-il, unyieldingly fight the enemy by honouring the dignity and fidelity as revolutionary soldiers of the general to the end and devote one's all to the fatherland, the people, society and the collective — all such heroic and beautiful behaviours can be found only in the society of Korea which has a great leader as its father.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Thanks Officials, Workers, Soldiers

SK1605033896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0227 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to officials, workers, teachers and students of the Choyang Honorary Coal-Miners Factory of the Kaechon area coal complex, Pyongsong Communist University and other units for giving full play to the traditional beautiful trait of army-people unity.

He also thanked officers and men of Pak Tae-pyong Unit, Yi Wai-yong Unit, Kim Kwang-ho Unit and other units of the Korean People's Army for doing good things for society and people.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Sends Reply Messages to Foreign Leaders

SK1605035196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0233 GMT 16 May 96

[All names of party leaders as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent messages to head of state and party leaders of foreign countries in reply to their telegrams on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Among them are Kazakh President Nursultan Abishevich Nazarbayev, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Nepal Worker-Peasant Party Narayan Man Bijukchhe, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) H. S. Surjeet, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the All-India Forward Bloc Chitta Bash, Chairman of the Central Committee of the People's Party of Cambodia Chea Sim, Co-chairman of the Socialist Party of Kazakhstan P. Sboik, President of the Socialist Workers' Party of Romania Ilie Verdet, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation G. Zuganov, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Workers' Party V. Tyulkin, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks Nina Andreyeva, Chairman of the Council of the Union of Communist Parties-the Communist Party of the Soviet Union O. Shenin, Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia V. V. Zhirinovsky, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Working Russia Movement Victor Anpilov, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Czechy-Morava Communist Party Miroslav Grevenicek, Secretary General of the Central Committee of the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil Claudio Campos, Chairman of the People's Front of Workers, Peasants and Students of Peru Genaro Ledesma Izquieta, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Peru (Red Motherland) Alberto Moreno, General Secretary Renan Raffo Munoz and International Secretary Guillermo Herrera Montecinos of the Central Committee of the Peruvian Communist Party.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also replied to First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh and Second Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

He in reply messages expressed deep thanks to them for their telegrams on the occasion of the historic birth anniversary of President Kim Il-song.

He expressed the conviction that the excellent friendly relations between Korea and those countries and between the Workers' Party of Korea and those parties will continue developing on good terms.

DPRK Article Reports Kim Chong-il's 30-Year Achievements

962C0057A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 1 Feb 96 p 2

[Article by Sung Chae-sun and No Yong: "The Seasoned and Tested Leader [yongdoja] Who Created Great Historical Treasures"

[FBIS Translated Text] A great history radiates more and more brilliance with the passage of time.

The 30-year history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's revolutionary activities consists of glorious and resplendent annals adorned with great victories and immortal achievements. During this period our party strengthened and developed as the great Comrade Kim Il-song's party, the golden age unfolded in all aspects of the revolution and construction, and the lasting foundations laid for fulfilling the chuche revolutionary cause to the end. This great history represents a treasure of our country, a precious treasure of the Korean revolution, and the textbook on struggle and life for our people.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il commands unusually high authority that no one can match, and enjoys the boundless respect and trust of all our people, because in the course of leading the long and arduous revolutionary struggle, he made immortal achievements that will shine for centuries, and gained an unusually rich experience.

The ordeals-ridden road of struggle traversed by the Korean revolution over the past 30 years or more are marked by the hallowed footprints of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, and the great achievements of our party glow with his esteemed name. It is the greatest fortune and the happiness of our people to have Comrade Kim Chong-il—the heir who is boundlessly loyal to the fatherly leader's cause, the seasoned and tested leader [yongdoja] of the revolution, and the outstanding political leader—reverentially at the head of the party and the revolution.

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The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is the great leader of our party who has absolute authority because he has created a glorious and resplendent history.

In order for the leader [yongdoja] to lead the revolution, he must have authority. The higher his authority, the more the people follow him and advance the revolution and construction in accordance with his ideology and desires and vigorously fight in the face of whatever formidable storm, rallied firmly around him.

The authority of the leader [yongdoja] in exercising his leadership is not acquired for nothing on an idle plot of ground. His authority has something to do with the achievements he accumulated in the history, in the era, and in the course of the revolution he has traversed.

The leader [yongdoja] with a great history behind him can inherit the leading position of the leader before him as it was and go forward with fulfilling the revolutionary cause.

In some countries, when the question of inheriting the revolutionary cause came to the fore, they set up the leaders, but these leaders, failing to maintain their positions as leaders, end up making a mess of their parties and revolutions. Historical experience shows that the question of inheriting the leadership cannot be solved correctly by any administrative and businesslike measures. Only when the people have as their leader a person who has gained a matchlessly rich experience and performed immortal exploits through a long historical period can the problem of finding the successor to the leader be solved in a most brilliant manner. This is the priceless truth that has been proven by the revolutionary practice of our time.

Today the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is sagaciously leading the revolution at the helm in our country. The authority of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il is absolute authority that nothing on earth can undermine, supreme authority that strikes everyone with awe. In this way the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il enjoys the boundless respect and trust of the whole party and all of our people as the publicly recognized leader of the revolution entirely because he has a more glorious and resplendent history of revolutionary struggle than any other socialist political leader in our time. The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's absolute authority is one that has solidified through a long history.

The leadership history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il spans more than 30 years. A history of 30 years, not just 10 or 20 years, is a very long history. Comrade Kim Chong-il, who, appeared as the bright star over Paektu when he was born, was early on reverentially placed at the top of the party and the revolution by the unanimous wishes of all our people and since then has led the Korean revolution at the forefront. In this process the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il made immortal achievements that will shine forever before our people and the revolution and gained an unusually abundant wealth of experience.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught as follows: "Our revolution has entered a new period of upswing under the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il. Since Comrade Kim Chong-il assumed his leadership, there have been new changes not only in party work but also in all areas, political, economic, and cultural, and there also have been great innovations and upsurges at all fronts of socialist construction."

The 30 years during which the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has led the revolution and construction were the 30 years of succession process which only the leader [yongdoja] infinitely loyal to the fatherly leader could have traversed; they were the 30 years of sagacious leadership which saw the most glorious and resplendent age in the annals of the Korean revolution unfolding; they were the 30 years of awesome creation and change during which the lasting foundations were laid for fulfilling the chuche revolutionary cause to the end.

The history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership is the longest and most glorious history, unmatched by any great man or any political leader in our time.

The history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's revolutionary activities extending over 30 years is, above all, the great history during which he led the Korean revolution at the helm side by side with the fatherly leader.

The history of the revolution of the working-class party is in essence the history of the leader and the succeeding leader [[yongdoja]. A great history is created by the leader [yongdoja] who inherited the leadership position from the leader preceding him in its entirety. This is the inevitable process of the revolutionary struggle of the working class.

Engraved in the history of revolutionary struggle in our country are the most glorious annals of the period during which the leader and his heir led the revolution and construction in perfect harmony over 30 long years or more. It was a significant unprecedented event in the history of the revolutionary struggle of the working class that the leader who pioneered the road of revolution, and the younger leader [yongdoja] who holds exactly the same position as the leader, led the revolution together side by side. This was a proud event that was unprecedented in any other country, which was made possible by the brilliant farsightedness of the leader and the outstanding greatness of the succeeding leader [yongdoja].

In the long history of the Korean revolution of 30 years or more during which we engaged in the revolution reverentially under the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il at the same time, holding them in high esteem as the center of leadership and the center of unity, this period has been the most ideal period in which everything went well.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il led the revolution together with the great leader, sharing the leadership position as the highest intelligence of the Korean revolution side by side with him. The great leader and the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il discussed together all problems encountered in the revolution and construction and mapped out lines and policies together. The devotion and hard work of the two leaders are engraved in every line or policy of our party without exception. The thoughts and theories of the great leader glow with the wisdom of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il; and the thoughts and theories of Comrade Kim Chong-il are permeated with the leader's wisdom. The thoughts and desires of the great leader were put into reality by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, and the thoughts and desires of Comrade Kim Chong-il were brought into full bloom by the leader. The immortal chuche ideology, which is shining as the foremost guiding ideology of our time, represents the priceless fruition of the joint ideological and theoretical activities of the fatherly leader and the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, and hence their joint asset.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il always stood with the fatherly leader in the entire course of leading the revolution and construction. The great comrade who shared sweets and bitters with the fatherly leader, the faithful aide who assisted the leader at the closest quarters, is none other than the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il. Wherever the fatherly leader went, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il accompanied him; wherever Comrade Kim Chong-il went, the leader went along with him. The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il walked hundreds of thousands of miles during on-the-spot tours and led the management of party, state, and military affairs together with the fatherly leader. When the great leader was on a long trip to a foreign land , Comrade Kim Chong-il was always with him in his mind, and Comrade Kim Chong-il never stopped thinking about the leader even for a moment. The benevolent image of the two leaders walking on the road side by side for the good of the people is permanently cherished in the hearts of our people as the symbol of unity and the symbol of inheritability.

With our people, the leadership of the great Comrade Kim Chong-il was at once the leadership of the fatherly leader; and the leadership of the fatherly leader was at once the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

That is why in the history of our revolutionary struggle, the history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's revolutionary activities completely coincides with the great leader's glorious and resplendent history of the past 30 years. Engraved in the history of the fatherly leader are the historical footsteps of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's history; and engraved in the history of Comrade Kim Chong-il's revolutionary activities is the history of the leader. No wonder our people call the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il the fatherly leader. The fatherly leader left our side for good, but the history of the Korean revolution will continue to radiate brilliance endlessly as the great leader's history because we have with us Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is the fatherly leader's alter ego.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's history of 30 years or more is the proud history during which he brilliantly explored the road ahead for the time and the revolution with his outstanding ability.

The leader of the revolution cuts through the road that was never walked before. To lead to victory the revolution, which was filled with ordeals and obstacles, the leader must be a man of ability. The authority of the leader is backed by his ability, the greatness of his history consists in the greatness of the achievements he makes by virtue of his ability.

The internal and external circumstances of our revolution in the past were arduous and complex beyond description, marked by the ceaseless war provocation and subversive machinations of the imperialists, the violently changing international situation, and the ever intensifying antisocialist and anti-DPRK machinations of the imperialists and the reactionaries in its wake. It was hard to imagine that anyone could lead the revolution and construction on the road of victory in such a harsh environment. This was the road of victory and glory that could be cut through only by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, the most outstanding man-of-ability leader.

The course of 30 years or more during which the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has led our revolution was a significant historical period in which he inexhaustibly demonstrated his outstanding qualities and character as leader day after day. It is the great Comrade Kim Chong-il's granite determination to begin from scratch and capture the high summit of the revolution by walking up step by step. The great Comrade Kim Chong-il illuminated the road ahead for the time and the revolution with his acute sense of political judgment and wisdom, and banded the masses of people together with his outstanding leadership skills and ability, skilfully organizing and mobilizing them in the revolutionary struggle. Every one of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's achievements and successes was a precious creation borne of a tree, the planting of which he himself planned without anyone's help, for the growth of which he mapped out a strategy, and of which he took care by putting his blood into it until it bore fruit. Comrade Kim Chong-il accomplished the task to put the ideology of the great leader into a prescribed formulation and deepen and develop it by enriching with new principles and substance with his outstanding ideological and theoretical wisdom. He also victoriously accelerated the formidable struggle to dye the whole society one color in the chuche ideology by his energetic leadership.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il created a model of seasoned and tested revolutionary leadership by accelerating the revolution and construction invariably to suit the demands of the developing realities and never budging an inch from the basic interests and principles of the revolution while positively coping with the fast-changing situation. It is because the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il was at the helm that our party and people have been able to win every struggle, hundreds or thousands of times, in the face of countless ordeals and obstacles.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has won the greatest victories by leading our revolution under the most arduous conditions, is really the man-of-ability leader, and is a great man's great man because of his outstanding ability and accumulated achievements.

The leader of the revolution, to begin with, did not come to occupy his position because somebody set him up. His leadership authority is wholly backed up and strengthened by his own ability. Just as all things follow the sun because the sunlight is warm and bright, so the people naturally give prominence to the leader of the revolution and reverentially hold him at the head of the party and the revolution because his temperament and character are outstanding and great. The greatness and the abiding significance of the history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il lie precisely in the fact that he translated into reality this basic truth about the process by which the center of leadership, the center of unity, is formed and solidified.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's history of 30 years or more is the history of the trust which he placed in the people and with which he moved forward together with them in perfect harmony.

A leader enjoying the absolute trust of the people invariably has the history in which he served the people and struggled together with them in unison. It was precisely because they did not have this kind of history of people-oriented leadership that in many former socialist countries the political leaders lost the support of the people and ended up losing their leadership positions overnight in the middle of building socialism.

Every page of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's history of more than 30 years is permeated with his absolute fath in and love for the people and his spirit of sacrificial service. For the great Comrade Kim Chong-il, the people have been the teacher and the inexhaustible source of wisdom and energy. A maxim to which the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has consistently held fast is that he who trusts the people and relies on them will come to rule the land and win each time, but he who keeps the people at a distance and is forsaken by them will lose every time. Each time a Herculean task confronted our revolution, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il went into the middle of the people to share life and death and joys and sorrows with them. In the period in which the flames of great revolutionary upswing were rising, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il led the revolution at the militant workplaces where the workers and people were living and working; and when the aggressive machinations of the imperialists reached their height, he was in the same trenches with the fighting people's army soldiers. He finds faith and courage in the simple letters from people and is moved by the greatness of the people at the sight of the crowds welcoming him with enthusiastic cheers, and he renews his determination to serve the people still better, leading the revolution and construction by making the best use of the abilities of the people. The person who does all that is none other than the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il. The road he walked glows so brightly with his indelible footprints because he cut through all the storms of history together with the people in perfect harmony.

The leader's (yongdoja) trust in the people begets the absolute worship of him on the part of the people. Day after day over a long period of time, our revolutionary fighters and people were impressed by the leadership features of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il and held him in high esteem with heartfelt faith and loyalty, calling him "the respected and beloved leader comrade" and "the respected and beloved commander." It is the unswerving faith of our people to believe that the road to the ultimate victory of the revolution, as well as the road to the lasting prosperity of the Kim Il-song nation, lies in following Comrade Kim Chong-il to the end, entrusting only him with their fate and future. This granite faith is reflected in the slogan of the KPA calling for its personnel to become human shells and bombs; in the bonfire of the revolution currently raised by our youth; and in the red flag song of the 1990's "Raise High the Red Flag!" sung by our people.

The absolute faith with which our people are fighting, with their fate entrusted wholly to the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, is becoming more and more firm and solid with each passing day. Reality shows that our people's absolute faith in the leader [yongdoja] is not based on power nor on a simple sense of obedience.

The people making revolution now highly admire the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il who made the history of revolutionary struggles as a seasoned and tested socialist political leader commanding absolute authority in the world today.

The authority of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is a precise replica of the authority of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song who was a political doyen of the world, an infallible authority backed up by his outstanding ability—the matchlessly high authority which the people look up to with awe. No world leader other than the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is leading the revolution with absolute authority backed by a matchless power of attraction, the power to influence, and a driving force.

II

The 30 years or more of history created by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is a priceless revolutionary treasure of our party and people.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught as follows: "I believe that all the successes our party has made in the revolution and construction constitute the joint successes of the international working class and that the experience and truths we have gained in the revolution will make a positive contribution to enriching the revolutionary cause of the working class."

The road the leader walks has the marks of all the revolutionary struggles of a nation and mirrors the aspirations of the people and the demands of the time and the revolution. His history is the history of the struggles of the working-class party, the history of the people, and the immortal history of the revolution. That is why the leader's history of revolutionary struggles becomes the most precious asset of the revolution and the textbook on struggle and life for the people making revolution.

In the course of cutting through a long, arduous road of revolution under the great leader [Comrade Kim Il-song] and the great leader [yongdoja] [Comrade Kim Chong-il], our people have come into possession of innumerable revolutionary treasures. Each and every one of these assets, accumulated throughout the long process of revolutionary struggle continuing from the time when the Korean revolution began, is priceless for the future of the revolution. Greatest among all these treasures is the history the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il made while leading the revolution and construction for 30 years or more. The history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is a treasure of the chuche Korea which will continue to radiate brilliance when we advance into communism in the future, and at the same time, a common asset of humanity which is of immortal importance to the whole world. We proudly say that this history is a permanent national treasure of the Kim Il-song nation.

The primary reason the history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's revolutionary activities is a priceless treasure for the revolution is that it contains all the guiding principles and experiences with a firm grip of which we have to go forward in the revolution and construction in our time.

The history of a leader does not radiate brilliance simply because it is old, nor is it great simply because he cut through arduous struggles. The greatness and richness of the experience gained, the achievements made in practical struggle are what make his history of revolutionary activities great.

In the past 30 years or more, our revolution was faced with numerous difficult and important tasks. Our party and people had to deepen and develop the socialist cause onto a higher stage while walking the road of revolution never trodden by anyone before, and beat back the challenges of the imperialists and accelerate the overall anti-imperialist cause by becoming the standard-bearers of the revolution. The history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il shines so brilliantly because he left his permanent, indelible footprints in human society while accomplishing these most pressing historic tasks in the most brilliant way by leading in the van.

Innumerable, acute, contemporary political issues were brilliantly resolved by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il over the past 30 years, and there are still numerous problems that history left unsolved. The great Comrade Kim Chong-il perfectly solved the fundamental problems arising in inheriting the leader's cause; set forth the guiding principle that paved the way for fulfilling the socialist cause, the communist cause, to the end by capturing the ideological and material fortresses; and clearly indicated the road to rebuilding socialism on a global scale. In this course precious experiences of great importance to the revolution and construction in our time were created day after day, experiences such as: consolidating the organizational and ideological foundations and the leadership system of the party that paved the way for carrying the leader's cause through to the end; realizing the perfect unity of the party, the military, and the masses of youth; accelerating the revolution and construction to suit the communistic character and the transitional nature of socialist society; and advancing the socialist cause by the power of ideological work with a firm grip on ideology.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's achievements and experiences in these 30 years or more are fully synthesized in his immortal classics published in recent years, such as "Socialism Is Science," "Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is an Essential Condition for the Fulfillment of the Socialist Cause," and "The Workers Party of Korea Is the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song's Party." It is precisely because of this that the leadership history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is serving as the textbook on struggle for revolutionary parties and peoples who are fighting to protect and preserve the causes of their leaders, crush the machinations of the imperialists, and accelerate the pace of advance toward socialism. Each and every one of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's achievements is of global significance and has universality common to revolutionary struggles and socialist construction. Today the people of our time seek a solution in Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership history each time they are confronted with a most difficult and acute problem in world politics, and foresee the future of the revolution in his precious experience in struggle. For this reason, Comrade Kim Chong-il commands high respect as an outstanding leader among the peoples making revolution.

The experience and achievements of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il are characterized by unusual richness and many-sidedness.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il ushered in the full flowering time of the age of the WPK in this land in a shorter time than it would otherwise have taken because he early on took a firm grip of all aspects and all sectors of the revolution and construction. His leadership history of over 30 years is a history adorned with literally grand creations and apocalyptic changes. In the course of creating this history Comrade Kim Chong-il launched bold operations to create everything new, and daringly pushed forward the revolution and construction day after day. Indeed the volume of the work and many-sided activities which he took charge of and carried out is staggering beyond imagination. The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has led the party building task, commanded the revolutionary armed forces, led socialist economic construction at the forefront, and brilliantly led cultural construction as well. The history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's revolutionary activities, because it was made in this course, has a rich encyclopaedic substance, and each content of it serves as a priceless treasure in charting the fate of the people.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il never, not even once, took time out for a comfortable rest during the entire course in which he led the revolutionary struggle by taking charge of tens of thousands of tasks facing the party, the revolution, the country, and the people. He took just a wink of sleep and got by with rice-balls each day and worked night and day, say, for 100 days or 1,000 days in a row, leaving the footprints of his leadership behind. The plethora of his rich assets which serve as the guiding principles in the revolution and construction of our time is unthinkable apart from his indescribable hard work and devotion. Each time we look at the splendid realities of today, we invariably trace back in our hearts the course of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's revolutionary activities—which are adorned with his boundless fidelity and devotion to the revolutionary cause and his tireless hard work—and are moved by the greatness of his history.

Another reason the history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's revolutionary activities constitutes a valuable revolutionary treasure is that he laid down the lasting foundations for fulfilling the revolutionary cause to the end during the course of that history.

Revolution is a struggle for the future, and the future of the revolution, importantly, is secured by the solidness of its foundation. In order for the history of the leader's revolutionary struggle to radiate brilliance forever, there must be created in the course of the struggle the political, ideological, material treasures that will serve as the foundation for the ultimate victory of the revolution and for the happiness of posterity for thousands of generations to come. The lasting foundation that the people can rely on continuing from one generation to the next is precisely the greatest of all national treasures.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has endeavored to lay the lasting foundations for the ultimate fulfillment of our revolution always looking 100 or 200 years ahead throughout the entire course of his revolutionary activities. Each of the political, ideological, and material treasures of our revolution, because it was created in each day of this course, is perfect and flawless and will continue to demonstrate its vitality even in the future under communism.

How to build the party and the army is an important question for the leader [yongdoja] in leading the revolution and construction. The party is the General Staff of the revolution, and the revolutionary army is the guardian of the party's cause. The greatness of the leader is brought into full play in strengthening and developing the entire party and the whole army . The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has built our party into a refined militant leadership organization in a far-sighted manner under the slogan calling for remodeling the whole party after the chuche ideology—this represents his immortal exploit performed for the resplendent future of our revolution. Our party, which is the crystallization of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's ideology and leadership, prides itself today on being the Kim Il-song party infinitely loyal to the great leader's cause, the seasoned and tested iron-clad party with an invincible might. Our revolution is capable of driving on triumphantly by braving any storm because the party is great and because we have the wholehearted unity of the entire party, the whole army, and all of the people rallied closely together around the party and the leader.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il presented the chuche- oriented army building policy, strengthened party indoctrination work in the KPA units, established the revolutionary command system by which the whole army moves as one under party leadership, and strengthened and developed the KPA [Korean Peoples Army] into the leader's army and the party's army. Since the respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il assumed his leadership, another golden age has unfolded in the building of the army; and the political and ideological features and the military-technological capabilities of the revolutionary army, as well as the military-civilian relationship, have undergone a radical change. We cannot find words of praise for the achievement of the respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, who built the KPA into an invincible army guarding our revolutionary cause with the gun by carrying on its traditions of loyalty and wholehearted unity.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il laid the solid groundwork for bringing the superiority of our way of socialism into full play in every sector. He has augmented our economic strength by vigorously pressing forward the all-out march for socialism with the spirit of the speed battle joined to the chollima, and ushered in the flowering season of literature and art and accumulated immortal achievements in man's history of literature and art through the revolution of literature and art. As a result, our country came to radiate brilliance not only as an ideological, political, and military power but also as a model of self-reliant economy and as a country in the middle of the golden age of culture.

The power of the revolutionary treasures produced by the leader manifests itself at difficult times. It was because the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il stood at the forefront of the revolution and because we had the durable assets he had created which would last for eons that at the difficult time when we lost the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song—the father of our nation and the pioneer of our revolution—our revolution was able to continue to walk the one road of victory without swerving in the least. These revolutionary achievements are the precious source of inspiration which implanted in our people faith in certain victory as well faith in the future, and which inspired them to launch vigorously into the struggle to make their country richer and stronger. It is due to the immortal treasures created in this glorious era shining with the revered name of Comrade Kim Chong-il that we always feel secure in our hearts no matter how rugged the road ahead for the revolution may be, and that the future of the Kim Il-song nation and the road ahead for our revolution are securely guaranteed.

The entire course in which the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il laid the solid foundations of the revolution was one through which he cut his way by struggle, always holding the red flag high.

None of the proud assets of our revolution was easily attained automatically. They are the precious gains of the revolution which the leader and the people have made by the sweat on their brows surmounting unbearable ordeals with the revolutionary spirit of perseverance and the spirit of fortitude. The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il would always pull through all difficulties standing in the way of the revolution by leading in the van with the iron will and the noble sense of mission to fulfill the revolutionary cause pioneered by the fatherly leader to the end. It is the firm, unshakable determination of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il to walk the arduous marching road of the revolution to the end with the red flag of revolution fluttering high, never letting go of the red flag of revolution which the fatherly leader passed on to him and which is associated with the whole life of the fatherly leader, even if others may forsake it. All the treasures of our revolution are permeated with the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's red-flag ideology and red-flag philosophy.

The leadership history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's over the past 30 years or more is the proud annals of the great revolutionary, the great leader, who has kept struggling, holding the red flag of the revolution high. Precisely for this reason Comrade Kim Chong-il's history on the one hand serves as the textbook on revolution which inspires people in this age with the profound revolutionary philosophy—and an extraordinary determination—the philosophy that a revolutionary must keep going forward all his life with the red flag of revolution fluttering, and on the other serves as a militant banner that inspires them to be ever victorious by breaking through any barriers head-on.

To revolutionaries nothing is more precious than the history of the leader's struggles. Comprehending and glorifying its greatness is a noble duty of revolutionary fighters and the most important mission for the time and the revolution.

We are the witnesses of and the participants in the great history of respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's revolutionary activities spanning over 30 years; we are the revolutionary fighters who shared the same goals and fate with him on this glorious course of history. Our thoughts and faith struck their roots in our hearts during this historical course; our ideals and aspirations materialized during this history; and our lives and happiness came into bloom on the march of this history. People, born in this glorious age led by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, came to understand the greatness of his history at heart, and have enjoyed their honor as revolutionary fighters, savoring this greatness deep in their bones and flesh—this is an immense pride and happiness of our people. Always cherishing this honor deeply, they will infinitely value and glorify the history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's long revolutionary activities.

Glorifying the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's history means safeguarding his achievements and staunchly fighting on only along the road shown by him. The history of the great Comrade Kim Chong-il is the bloodline of our revolution and the bloodline of chuche. In glorifying this history there lies the road to accomplishing the historical cause of national reunification and fulfilling the cause of self-dependence worldwide, as well as the road to preserving the purity of the bloodline of chuche which the great leader spent his whole life to establish.

The Korean revolution pioneered by the great leader is confidently moving forward on its own track. No doubt the Korean revolution will forever, as in the past, make its own history with its inheritability by virtue of the ideology, wisdom, iron will, and leadership of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il.

It is the most sacred duty of all of us, the fighters and disciples of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, to safeguard and ceaselessly glorify his history.

A revolutionary fighter and loyal servant who has an absolute faith in no one but the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il and who supports him is a resolute protector and defender guarding with his life the historical treasures Comrade Kim Chong-il created.

In his long revolutionary course the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has done everything possible for the development of the party and the revolution and for the happiness and prosperity of the country and people as a revolutionary and the leader. Contained in the history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il are all theoretical and practical matters on which the party and the people will have to keep a firm grip not only in our time but also in the age of communism that is yet to come. This treasure of history is the valuable omnipotent sword for our revolution, the life-giving water for our people, and the immortal banner of struggle in our time. At times of smooth sailing as well as in hard times, we must trace back the history of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, find all secrets of victory in it, and wage the revolution and accelerate construction only by following the examples set by him. We must find in the teachings of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il a way out of ordeals and barriers to victory when they block our way, and engrave his image in our hearts and fight on with redoubled courage and in high spirit, inspired by his image engraved in our hearts, even when we stand alone on an isolated island in the far-off sea. This must be a maxim on struggle and the inviolable way of activity for the real loyal servants and revolutionaries of our time who live and struggle by the great Comrade Kim Chong-il's living style.

We must make our posterity into the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's permanent fighters and disciples who value the historical treasures created by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il like the apples of the eyes and preserve and pass it on from generation to generation.

The history of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's revolutionary activities for over 30 years will shine for eons as the most precious national treasure of the Kim Il-song nation.

DPRK: Production, Use of Substitute Fuel Discussed

SK1605064296

[FBIS Report] Pyongyang MINJU CHOSON in Korean on page three of its 27 April 1996 edition carries a series of reports on the use of substitute fuel under the headline "Let Us Actively Utilize Substitute Fuel."

In a 400-word report by reporter Cho Hung-pom printed under the subtitle "All Cooperative Farms Produce Substitute Fuel—At Kujang County," it is stated that cooperative farms in Kujang County are using substitute fuel produced by the county itself. The fuel is used to operate farm equipment to carry out rewarding farm work to thoroughly implement the party's agriculture-first policy.

The report says that "substitute fuel production facilities have been established at all cooperative farms in the county and they are producing a large amount of substitute fuel every day." According to the report, the functionaries of the county cooperative farm management committee first established a substitute fuel production facility at Chonsu cooperative farm and stabilized production and consumption there so that other cooperative farms could confidently and persistently follow suit. The functionaries ensured that substitute fuel production facilities would be established where sufficient resources and natural water are available. They pushed ahead in a forward-looking manner with the plan to use substitute fuel not just to run tractors and vehicles but also to operate various pieces of farm equipment such as rice transplanting machines and rice seedling picking machines.

The report says that the members of technical innovation teams at many cooperative farms successfully solved technical problems arising in making distillation dry tanks [kollyuro] and decomposition tanks [punhaero] so as to properly establish facilities that can produce a large amount of substitute fuel every day.

In another 500-word report under the subtitle "Farm Equipment Which Uses Gas as Fuel Roll Out to the Fields—At Unchon County," reporter Kim Chun-ho reports that "cooperative farms in Unchon County are using gas to solve the fuel problem in running motors."

The reporter states: "The gas used this year is popular among people, because it is bottled and used to run motors, which was not the case in the past.

"Unchon County used to use gas as substitute fuel. However, in the past, an apparatus was attached directly to farm equipment to produce gas and to consume it there right on the spot.

"So, the production process was complicated; strenuous effort was required; and the operation of farm equipment was not efficient.

"To overcome this inefficiency, scientists, technicians, and workers in the county pooled their strength and wisdom and have invented a new method to produce gas.

"Gas production processes have been established separately away from farm equipment and produced gases have been bottled to be installed on the equipment. This has greatly increased the efficiency of the equipment and has made the farm work easier.

"The county has also established a gas bottle production process.

"The gases, which are produced in large quantities by burning various shrubs plentiful in the hills and fields as well as rice chaffs and threshed corn ears abundantly available at cooperative farms, are supplied to many farms in bottles by Unchon County.

"Before rice sowing and transplanting, gas bottles were installed on motors to run small water pumps to irrigate a seed-treatment station and some dry fields and, based on this result, gas bottles were installed on other pieces of farm equipment for plowing and for transporting manure. The benefit was great.

"Many cooperative farms in the county installed gas bottles also on rice seedling picking machines and rice transplanting machines some time ago.

"The county farm equipment workshop first ran a rice transplanting machine as a test and then had all cooperative farms follow suit. As a result, about ten kinds of farm equipment have been successfully operated, not to mention the operation of rice transplanting machines and rice seedling picking machines.

"According to data, a bottle of compressed gas installed on a motor can complete the rice transplanting work of a chongbo [2.45 acres] of paddies.

"Benefits are great if gas bottles are installed on motors.

"Above all, the full operation of small farm equipment is possible and operational efficiency is not very different from that attained by using oil. And they can run farm equipment at any time, since gas is always available.

"Less labor and less investment are required and they can run farm equipment in any season; in spring, summer, autumn, and even in winter."

The reporter says that functionaries and farm workers of Unchon County remember that the fatherly leader [oboi suryongnim] visited the Yonbaek plain several years ago and was extremely satisfied with the fact that the county was using substitute fuel to run farm equipment. The reporter also says that they run the farm equipment equipped with gas bottles with a single mind to give joy to the respected and beloved general [kyongaehanun changgunnim] by again attaining bumper crops.

DPRK: Yang Hyong-sop, Others Assist in Chongsan-ri Planting

SK1605050496 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 12 May 96

[FBIS Summary] A recorded 15-minute on-the-spot report notes the initiation of rice transplanting at Chongsan-ri on 12 May, the 25th anniversary of rice transplanting by Kim Chong-il at Chongsan-ri.

Yang Hyong-sop, alternate member of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly; Chang Chol, DPRK vice premier and minister of Culture and Art, functionaries of the central organizations in Pyongyang, and functionaries and officials of Nampo joined together with the farmers of Chongsan-ri, in the first rice transplanting operation of this year in the rice paddies of No. 3 work team of the Chongsan cooperative farm where Kim Chong-il himself transplanted rice seedlings 25 years ago.

The report says, "Those who came to assist in the rice transplanting here visited the Chongsan-ri museum of revolutionary artifacts as well as the homes of the farm workers today and asked the functionaries and agricultural working people of this place to attain greater success in the struggle to implement the remarks made by the respected and beloved general in his historic on-the-spot guidance."

The report carries interviews with functionaries from Nampo and Pyongyang and working people on Chongsan-ri and describes progress in rice transplanting.

South Korea

ROK: Positions of U.S., PRC, Japan, Russia on 4-Way Talks

SK1605104496 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 16 May 96 p 5

[Article on the positions of the United States, the PRC, Japan, and Russia toward the U.S.-ROK proposal for four-way talks on the Korean Peninsula; jointly written by Yi Sang-sok in Washington, Song Tae-su in Beijing, Sin Yun-sok in Tokyo, and Yi Chin-hui in Moscow]

[FBIS Summary]

The United States

The U.S. position is to patiently wait for North Korea to come forward to accept the four-party talks. An official of the Clinton administration has said: "The ball is on the North Korean side. Let us wait and see." The United States is optimistic about the proposal despite North Korea's ambiguous attitude.

The United States is considering additional aid under the premise that food aid is an issue separate from the four-way talks. The United States has also prepared a second-phase relaxation of economic sanctions against North Korea. These steps are expected to be catalysts in getting North Korea to accept the proposal.

The PRC

During the one month following the announcement of the four-party talks proposal, there were no signs indicating any change in the PRC policy on the Korean Peninsula. However, one of the noteworthy moves in the PRC is that the PRC has changed its passive attitude and has increased official and nonofficial contacts with North Korea.

The PRC and Russia held summit talks on 25 April. The PRC's comments after the summit were that the two presidents "did not have in-depth discussions on the four-party talks." This shows that the PRC and Russia have a conflict of interest over the four-party talks. At least, the PRC does not agree with Russia's critical attitude.

Japan

Japan officially supports the four-party talks and has urged North Korea to accept the proposal. Japan has also said that improvement of North Korea-Japan relations must be in coordination with development of the four-party talks. However, Japan seems to have internally decided to resume talks on diplomatic ties with North Korea if North Korea rejects the proposal or prolongs its decision.

Regarding the food aid issue, Japan has a neutral position.

Russia

Russia's position on the four-party talks is firm. The Russian position is that an international conference without Russia will not be successful. When ROK Foreign Minister Kong No-myong went to Moscow on 5 May to explain the four-party talks, Russia tried to convince Kong of the rationale of Russia's proposal for an international forum. Russia considers itself an important party in resolving the inter-Korean issue.

ROK: Disagreement Between ROK, U.S., Japan on DPRK Aid Viewed

SK1605113996 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 15 May 96 p 3

[Editorial: "Insecure Cooperation Between the ROK, the United States and Japan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cheju high-level policy talks between the ROK, the United States, and Japan have revealed that their policies toward North Korea are similar on the whole, but when it comes down to details, their positions are in conflict. They have confirmed that the principle of mutual cooperation and the proposed four-way talks are the only workable plan for the reduction of tension on the Korean Peninsula and for survival of the present North Korean regime. Therefore, they will continue to urge North Korea to accept the proposal. However, the United States and Japan have declared, in a roundabout way, that as for aid and their overall approach to North Korea, it will not necessarily depend on the DPRK's response to the proposal for four-way talks.

A new agreement made in the talks this time is that the ROK and the United States may have a tripartite, preliminary contact to explain the four-way talks to North Korea. We wonder how North Korea will react to the four-way talks proposal and how it will modify the proposal in an effort to make a counterproposal after keeping silent and pondering it for a long time.

The greatest matter of interest and concern in the current talks is the difference of views between the ROK and the United States on the key to resolution of so-called North Korean issues — that is, to make North Korea soften its attitude and induce North Korea to open its doors. The differences were brought into the open by the speeches delivered by U.S. Ambassador to the ROK James Laney and Foreign Minister Kong No-myong shortly before opening the talks. Ambassador Laney stressed his sunshine theory — that we should let North Korea open its doors not by pressure but through aid. Minister Kong refuted this theory by saying that the clouds, referring to the "North Korean leadership," have plenty of room to block the sun, and that we should use both a carrot and a stick in a harmonious way.

It is understandable, of course, that at the talks the U.S. side emphasized the importance of contacts with North Korea, such as missile talks and MIA talks, by expressing optimism over promoting the four-way talks. But it is very regrettable that during the course of the meeting, the U.S. side made clear the possibility of additionally relaxing sanctions against and providing food aid to North Korea.

With regard to the Japanese attitude to refrain from negotiations with North Korea for the establishment of diplomatic relations, it was reportedly confirmed that the Japanese position is not to withhold negotiations until North Korea accepts the proposal for four-way talks but that, due to pressure from the opposition parties, it cannot wait indefinitely. Japan has said that it would maintain a certain dialogue channel with North Korea and normalize its diplomatic relations according to progress in the circumstances.

The current talks have laid bare the positions of the United States and Japan. In the short run, they have agreed not to take any drastic steps, such as the relaxation of sanctions or food aid, until North Korea comes to accept the four-way talks, but in the long run, the relaxation of sanctions and food aid are unavoidable in order to deter an abrupt collapse of the North Korean regime and any provocations against South Korea.

For our part, this amounts to saying that we could not realize the buildup of solid cooperation in pressuring North Korea to accommodate the four-way talks and withholding any sort of aid and individual talks until that time. Instead, the "responsibility" has been placed on South Korea; the four-way talks should be chiefly led by North and South Korea in the future under their initiative, but South Korea should take charge of the central role in food aid. This has left room for repeating the principle of another Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization.

The government must discard its easygoing attitude that the four-way talks would possibly be smoothly pushed ahead under the three-nation cooperation, with North Korea being obedient to what we say. We must realize that the United States and Japan have been linking this issue closely to their respective domestic politics, such as the U.S. presidential election this fall. The government should step up individual diplomatic endeavors toward the big powers surrounding our country so that our initiative in the talks may be firmly guaranteed and we may be able to provide aid with just cause in the coming days.

ROK: DPRK Expected To Respond to 4-Way Talks Proposal in Jul

SK1605111396 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 16 May 96 p 5

[Article by Kim Pyong-chan: "North Korea's Reaction"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As experts on North Korean affairs have predicted, North Korea's response to the four-way talks proposal has been delayed. While touching on the four-way talks a few times, North Korea has never clarified its position on the talks.

North Korea's response up to this point has indicated that the issue of peace on the Korean Peninsula is related to DPRK-U.S. dialogue; that the talks proposal is under review; and that further explanation from the U.S. is necessary, thus suggesting a certain progress in the process of review. Nevertheless, North Korea has completely restricted its dialogue partner to the United States. This is why tripartite contact between North and South Korea and the United States was proposed to explain the proposal for four-way talks.

This being the case, North Korea is trying to buy time while reacting to the four-way talks, which are winning support from international opinion, in such a way that "it is not aware of the particulars of the talks."

We should consider that calculation of gains and losses from the four-way talks has already been completed on the North Korean side, as well as on our side. The four-way talks can be characterized as having taken account of: the complex dynamic relations in Northeast Asia; North Korea's worsened economic situation and the process of its economic opening; the stability of the North Korean regime; and plans by figures in our financial, cultural, and religious circles to move into to North Korea. By considering such changeable elements [kabyonchok yosodul], North Korea has given the response that it needs time to review "the realities" of the four-way talks, as well as explanation of the talks.

The question is how long our government's position on North Korea and North Korea's wait-and-see attitude will last. Our government believes that the four-way talks proposal, regardless of whether North Korea accepts it or not, has contributed to making the international community know that the ROK side is exercising the initiative concerning the issue of the Korean Peninsula, while North Korea's offensive for concluding a peace agreement has lost steam.

However, since we have boldly turned the method of solution to North-South issues into a new, international framework called the four-way talks, there have also been calls to eliminate North Korea's doubts.

In the meantime, concerning the timing of North Korea announcing its position, a relevant ROK Government official has stated that "it is unlikely that North Korea will hastily respond [to the four-way talks.] However, North Korea is not in a position to indefinitely delay on the four-way talks issue, because it has already mentioned the issue more than 10 times." Thus, he predicted that "North Korea will put forward something in July, the third anniversary of Kim Il- song's death."

ROK: ROK-U.S.-Japan Policy Consultations Appraised

SK1605024896 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 15 May 96 p 3

[Editorial: "Leaving Out Policy for Luring North Significant"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the second ROK-U.S.-Japan policy conference held in Cheju on 13-14 May, the three countries decided to work together to persuade North Korea to accept the proposal for four-party talks. Still, they decided not to take separate measures to lure North Korea.

Under circumstances in which North Korea appears to be adhering solely on North Korea-U.S. contacts since it has not officially responded to the four-party talks proposal for almost a month, the agreement reached at the three-country conference seems to hold new significance in its reconfirmation of fundamental principles. The conference speaks volumes in leaving North Korea no room for mistakenly thinking that it may gain practical benefits from one-on-one contacts with the United States that bypass the talks proposal.

However, we cannot say that all the problems among the three countries have been settled. While the three-country conference reportedly decided not to take separate measures to lure North Korea, and the United States reiterated its intention of not providing food aid, or lifting economic sanctions on North Korea, a U.S. State Department spokesman said on 13 May that these two issues are still under consideration.

Since no final decision has been made, technically, the consideration of the issues at hand does not contradict what has been said, but it may be the cause for friction between the two countries. The three countries also said that South and North Korea are to take the initiative in settling the issue of peace on the Korean peninsula. Still the question remains on whether this issue has anything to do with improving North Korea-U.S. relations.

Coordinating policy among countries with different interests is difficult. That is why the three-country conference needs to continue to be held. The third conference is slated to be held in Japan in three to four months. The three countries need to narrow their differences through frequent meetings.

During this conference, Japan promised to closely consult with the ROK in improving North Korea-Japan ties. Since North Korea-Japan relations directly affect the ROK's interests, North Korea-Japan relations should be kept from undermining ROK-Japan relations.

We expect much change to take place in issues related to the Korean peninsula by the time the third conference convenes. We hope that this three-country meeting will serve as an occasion for North Korea to join the four-party talks readily.

ROK: Japan Said To Separate Diplomatic Talks From 4-Way Talks

SK1605010396 (Internet) The Joong-Ang Ilbo WWW in English 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Japanese government explained at a consultation meeting between the vice ministers of South Korea, Japan and the United States, which was held on Cheju Island, that its negotiations on normalizing ties with North Korea will not be related to the proposed 4-way talks. YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported that at the consultation talks, Tokyo asked for both Seoul and Washington's understanding if Tokyo requests bilateral negotiations on resuming diplomatic ties even if North Korea does not agree to the 4-way talks.

ROK: Editorial Concerned by U.S. 'Double-Talk' on DPRK

SK1605005396 (Internet) The Digital Chosun Ilbo WWW in English 1224 GMT 15 May 96

[Editorial: "The Two Faces of America?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Officials from South Korea, the U.S. and Japan, through high-level political talks on Cheju-to confirmed that they will cooperate on policies regarding North Korea. On the same day, U.S. State Department spokesperson, Nicholas Burns announced that America is considering the easing of economic sanctions against North Korea. This contradicts not only statements made by Assistant Secretary of the U.S. State Department, Winston Lord, but also, assertions repeated six times, by Burns himself, that "We will not take any steps to do so right now."

We are confused by contradictory statements like these made by the U.S. State Department. If the U.S. is indicating an ease of sanctions to North Korea, while maintaining the opposite is true to us, this casts doubts on what we currently hold as friendly relations with the U.S. We cannot have faith in America's economic sanctions against North Korea, or for the four-party talks agreed upon in April if the U.S. continues to double-talk. America has demonstrated that it prefers a Korean peace that will be constructed and maintained between the two Koreas. However, given the recent developments, we cannot help but question if the U.S. is above making secret agreements with North Korea on this issue at the upcoming series of U.S.-North Korea negotiations.

If America continues to develop its North Korea policy along this track, we cannot expect either the nuclear issue, or the issue of four-party talks to be solved anytime soon. Cooperation between the U.S., Korea, and Japan is only possible if there is consistency in the U.S.'s North Korea policy. If policy changes are needed, these should be made only after consultation with other ally nations. As in the case of the light-water reactor project, our cooperation is absolutely necessary for the success of America's policy towards North Korea. It is impossible to proceed if the U.S. insists on confusing us.

As revealed by the high-level talks held at Cheju-do, America does not seem to understand North Korea very well. U.S. optimism about the North Korean nuclear issue, for example, may simply be a public relations tactic for President Clinton's re-election this November.

Recent criticisms by U.S. policy officials for Korea, that the Korean press often complicates U.S.-Korean relations and North Korea policy with inaccurate reporting is ironic in light of this situation. They should understand that this caused in part, by American officials who sometimes say things that are contradictory or vague.

ROK: U.S. Official Dismisses 'Imminent' Collapse of DPRK

SK1605054796 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 May 96 p 2

[YONHAP from Tokyo]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A high U.S. administration official said Tuesday that though the economy is in shambles in North Korea, Kim Chong-il's leadership is firm, and he does not believe North Korea's collapse is imminent, according to a KYODO NEWS dispatch from Washington.

The report said that Kim Chong-u, vice chairman of the North's External Economic Commission who recently met U.S. State Department officials in Washington, asked for emergency food assistance, contending that the North's food situation would be difficult, especially for several months beginning in June.

The American official was said to have stated that Washington has no plans to provide any additional food to North Korea. "However, we are concerned about the situation there," he said.

ROK: Officials on Cheju Talks, Spokesman's Remark on Aid

SK1605030396 Seoul YONHAP in English 0241 GMT 16 May 96

[Article by Hwang Tu-hyong: "Three-Way Talks Put End to Speculation on Differing Positions"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 16 (YONHAP) — The recently concluded three-way talks at Cheju Island among South Korea, the United States and Japan put an end to speculation that the three are at odds in dealing with such major issues as lifting economic sanctions on and providing additional relief to the North.

During a joint press conference at the end of the two-day policy coordination talks on North Korea, representatives of the three countries reaffirmed that they had no immediate plans to provide additional rice to North Korea or lift economic sanctions imposed by the United States.

South Korea has been staunch in dealing with the North, insisting that it will not take any appesement measures unless the North comes forward to the four-way peace talks proposed by South Korea and the United States last month.

Reports, however, have said that the United States wants to ease economic sanctions on the North in the hope of improving relations with the North and that Japan is eager to provide additional rice to the North in an effort to resume normalization talks.

"It's true that governments can have different positions on such sensitive issues as those involving North Korea because of different interests of their own," a Foreign Ministry official admitted.

The official, however, added that "that's why we've gotten together on Cheju Island and the result is that we were successful in patching up minor differences on issues concerning the North."

During the joint press conference in Cheju Island, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord also said that his government will consider easing economic sanctions on North Korea in response to the North's implementation of the agreed framework signed in 1994.

Lord said that the North has yet to respect one major aspect of the agreed framework, namely improvement in inter-Korean relations, urging the North to accept the proposal for the four-party meeting for a permanent peace agreement on the Korean peninsula.

Lord said that such measures as the easing of economic sanctions or provision of additional aid could be discussed at the proposed four party meeting.

Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister Yanai Shunji, who represented the Tokyo government at the Cheju talks, meanwhile, said that his government "has no plans to extend new food assistance to North Korea."

Yanai also confirmed that his government's desire to improve relations with the North will proceed in a direction which does not impair peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

South Korea's position is that it will not offer any incentives to North Korea unless the North accepts the four-party meeting.

Deputy Foreign Minister Chong Tae-ik recently said that projects for large-scale economic and rice assistance to North Korea could be launched once the North accepts Seoul's proposal for peace talks and the South receives accurate information on the food situation in the North.

Chong, however, said such projects will be led by the South Korean Government. "Basically, the United States Government has neither the will nor the ability financially, to launch such large scale economic assistance or rice aid to the North.

At this juncture, "I don't think the United States Government is in a position, to call on the South Korean Government to agree to ease economic sanctions or provide rice," Director General Yu Myon-hwan of the ministry's American Affairs Bureau said.

"The role of the United States and South Korea's other neighboring countries should remain supportive and facilitating when dealing with the North Korean issue," Yu said.

"The underlying principle is that South Korea is the only country which can substantially help North Korea and we should build factories or take other measures to help redress the North's economic plight," he said. "Such short-term aid as rice provision cannot solve the chronic food shortage and other economic difficulties which are caused by systematic problems."

Another official noted that South Korea provided 150,000 tons or nearly 150 million dollars worth of rice to North Korea last year, compared with the total 20 million dollars of food aid to the North from various international humanitarian organizations during the same year.

South Korea was actually the second largest donor to North Korea after Japan which provided 500,000 tons of rice.

"In that sense, any additional rice aid project by Washington will not mean much compared with the larger amount from South Korea and Japan, although such aid could have some political implications," he said. The United States last year provided 2 million dollars worth of rice to North Korea.

The official was not pleased with the recent reports that U.S. State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns talked about the U.S. Government's plan to provide additional rice aid to North Korea.

"One could not write such a story if he had closely examined the remarks by Burns," he said. "Burns actually did not mean to launch a new food aid program for North Korea, rather he just left open the possibility of providing additional rice aid or lifting economic sanctions on the North pending developments."

"How can we flatly deny any possibility when we don't know what will happen in the future ?" he asked.

The official insisted that Burns' remarks were consistent with the position of the governments of South Korea and the United States in that they implied the possibility of the two countries launching aid programs once the North comes forward for four-way talks and takes measures to ease tension on the Korean peninsula.

"We actually discussed concrete measures to help the North recover from its current economic plight, although we cannot reveal or make such offers as of now," he said.

"We want to maintain a constructive ambiguity because we think that might help the North come forward for the four-party meeting," he said.

ROK: Editorials View Results of ROK-U.S.-Japan Cheju Meeting

SK1605070396

[FBIS Report] The following is a compilation of editorials published on 16 May on the results of the second ROK-U.S.-Japan policy conference held on Cheju Island 13-14 May.

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN carries on page 3 a 700-word editorial entitled "U.S. Policy Toward the North, What Is Its True Intention?" The editorial starts off by noting that it is necessary to reexamine the result of the high-level policy consultative conference and that the announcement of the joint communique was an opportunity "to manifest a cooperative system by the three countries regarding the North." The editorial notes, however, that it cannot deny the fact that there are "fundamental differences among the three countries regarding the North Korean issue." The editorial then continues to note that even though the three countries consolidated a firm cooperative system, in reality, different measures are being taken because the United States and Japan are interpreting the cooperative principle from different points of view. It then notes the contradictory behavior by the United States in discussing the possibility of U.S. food assistance to the North and the issue of easing economic sanctions. The editorial concludes by noting that it is necessary for the ROK to "look squarely at the U.S. basic principle regarding its policy toward the North."

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO carries on page 6 a 600-word editorial entitled "Homework That Remains From the 'Cheju Cooperation.'" The editorial starts off by noting that at least from the ROK side, the "ROK-U.S.-Japan Cheju strategic conference ended smoothly." It then notes the significance of the proposal to the North for holding a joint explanatory meeting on the four-way talks by the ROK and the United States. In addition, the editorial questions whether the three countries all have the same view in dealing with the North, noting differences in the North issue between the ROK and the United States-Japan. The editorial concludes by noting that just like at the ROK-U.S.-Japan Honolulu talks, the ROK must not think only as it pleases because this will lead to a misunderstanding.

The left-leaning HANGYORE SINMUN carries on page 3 a 700-word editorial entitled "The Road Toward the Four-Way Talks." The editorial begins by noting that it was agreed among the ROK, the United States, and Japan that there will be no food assistance to the North and no DPRK-Japan negotiations to establish diplomatic relations until the North accepts the four-way talks. It then notes that at about the same time in Washington, the State Department was announcing that it was "examining the possibility of additional easing of economic sanctions toward the North, and that if there is a request for additional assistance from an international organization, it will consider it." The editorial notes that it does not know what connection these two proposals have, but the North's intention seems to be that if it accepts the proposal for the four-way talks, it will have much to gain. The editorial says that the three countries agreed not to use special "luring policies" to attract North Korea to the four-way talks, but when viewing the results, it seems to be a kind of "oppressive policy" by taking advantage of North Korea's weak points. The editorial then urges North Korea to quickly end its "examination of this matter" and face reality. The editorial concludes by noting that the ROK should open its heart so that a more effective method can be found on the road toward the four-way talks.

ROK: U.S. Embassy Doubles Visa Processing Capacity

SK1505071896 Seoul YONHAP in English 0634 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 15 (YONHAP) — The United States Embassy here recently introduced a variety of measures including computerization to facilitate the visa issuance process to double its capacity for visa issuance, a Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

The official said that the U.S. Embassy now can handle up to 4,000 visa applications every day, up from 2,000 applications just a few months ago.

Two staff members from the U.S. Embassies in Manila and Tokyo have recently been brought in to help expedite visa issuance in Seoul, despite the fact that most of the U.S. Government agencies have been suffering from staff and budget reductions, he said.

Foreign Minister Kong No-myong and other Foreign Ministry officials have frequently demanded that the U.S. Government take measures to expedite procedures for issuance of visas.

Among the measures taken by the U.S. Embassy here are exemption of visa interviews for those over 60 years old, filing of visa application forms and delivery of visas through fax, mail or courier service and increasing the number of tourist agencies allowed to provide visa issuance services from 150 to 200.

The U.S. Embassy also allowed the agencies taking part in the Travel Agency Referral Program (TARP) to handle applications from people 25 years old down from the previous age limit of 30.

People whose visa applications have been denied will also be able to reapply immediately. In the past, people had to wait at least 90 days before they could submit a new application.

Procedures are also underway to exempt interviews for college professors and students.

ROK: Establishment of FBI Liaison Office in ROK 'Unlikely'

SK1605021496 Seoul YONHAP in English 0053 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 16 (YONHAP) — The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is unlikely to be able to establish a liaison office in Seoul in the near future.

No budget request has been submitted to the U.S. Congress on the proposed establishment of an FBI Seoul Liaison Office, and Congress does not consider the proposal an urgent one, officials at the National Police Agency said Thursday.

As a result, the establishment of an FBI office in Seoul is unlikely in the next two or three years, according to the sources.

An official from the FBI office in Tokyo, who visited Seoul in December last year, told the National Police Agency about a plan calling for stationing FBI staff in Seoul on a permanent basis in July for the purpose of facilitating joint criminal investigations in Korea with local authorities.

The United States maintains FBI Liaison Offices in more than 20 countries including Japan and Russia. Criminal information involving Korea has been handled by the FBI Liaison Office in Tokyo.

ROK: Ministry To Urge Bank of America Not To Sell Koram Shares

SK1505015596 Seoul YONHAP in English
0140 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 15 (YONHAP) — The government will advise the bank of America not to transfer in block sale part of its stake in Koram Bank to any of the three major domestic shareholders in the joint-venture bank — Daewoo, Samsung and Taehan Electric Wire.

It is to keep any of the three non-banking conglomerates from becoming the controlling shareholder in the joint-venture bank by obtaining a larger interest than the bank of America.

The Finance and Economy Ministry has followed a principle of not allowing a non-banking industrial business to become a controlling shareholder in a bank with a view to preventing concentration of economic power.

Accordingly, the ministry bans a non-banking business from owning more shares than its foreign partner in a joint-venture bank.

The ministry has explained the policy to the Bank of America and obtained its understanding, ministry officials said.

If the U.S. bank did not comply with the policy, the government would have to amend the implementation decree of the bank law in a way that meets the principle, they added.

The Bank of America now is the largest shareholder in Koram Bank, with a stake of 29.35 percent, and it plans to dispose of some 10 percent by the order of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board.

Daewoo holds 9.59 percent, Samsung 5.79 percent and Taehan Electric Wire 4.18 percent in Koram Bank.

ROK: KFTA Wants U.S. To Ease Antidumping, Tariff Regulations

SK1605014696 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
16 May 96 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Korea Foreign Trade Association (KFTA) yesterday called on the U.S. Department of Commerce to improve anti-dumping and tariff-related regulations, which have proved unfavorable to Korean companies.

The organization explained that it sent a letter as the department asked related businesses for their opinions before it implements new rules in this regards.

In the letter, the KFTA took issue with the constructed export price (CEP) deduction and value-added deductions.

The KFTA asserted that the regulations should provide that the amount of profit deducted from a particular CEP sale should not exceed the actual profit earned on that sale.

Nothing in the statue indicates that Congress intended that a greater amount of profit be deducted from CEP than was actually incurred. Thus, if the actual profits earned on CEP sales are less than the allocated profit, the profit deduction should be capped by the actual profit earned on the CEP sale," said the KFTA.

The organization also alleged that the department should retain flexibility to calculate the profit deduction on subcategories of the subject merchandise.

"The preamble to the proposed regulations states that the profit will normally be based on all sales of the subject merchandise in the United States and the foreign like product in the foreign market. As a general matter, we agree with this approach," the KFTA said.

However, it could create artificial dumping margins, or, conversely, mask margins, where because of different conditions of competition the profit levels on different categories of the merchandise under investigation vary significantly, said the organization.

KFTA called on the department to make clear that when it is applying surrogate margins to merchandise which has had value added after importation by a related importer, it will not base those margins on sales by other producers or exporters.

It asserted that the related regulation does not explicitly state that the sales of "identical or other" subject merchandise must be by the same exporter or producer, although the statute clearly so requires.

"We recommend that the regulation conform with the statute. In addition, neither the regulation nor the preamble indicate how the department will determine the margin where the producer or exporter makes no arms-length sales of the subject merchandise in the condition in which imported," said the KFTA.

Touching upon the issue of the level of trade adjustment the KFTA alleged that the regulations should reflect the requirement that a difference in selling functions need only "affect" price differences, and need not be the sole cause of those differences in order to obtain a level of trade adjustment.

"The regulations should state that different selling functions performed at different levels of trade need only affect" price comparability, and need not be the only factor causing any price differences," it added.

ROK: DPRK Reportedly Asks for UN 'Emergency' Food Assistance

SK1605045796 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 May 96 p 2

[YONHAP from Tokyo]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] North Korea has recently requested the United Nations for the provision of food assistance ahead of other relief programs, the KYODO NEWS SERVICE reported from New York Tuesday.

The report said North Korea made the request to Yasui Akashi, director of the U.N. Humanitarian Affairs Bureau last April 27 through its permanent mission in Geneva.

The world organization has been working on a plan to furnish overall flood relief assistance to North Korea.

The official observed that the emergency request indicates that Pyongyang feels a sense of crisis with the worsening food situation there, according to the report.

The United Nations plans to have its food—related agencies-the World Food Program (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO) and U.N. International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)—map out a long-term assistance plan for North Korea.

Based on the plan to be worked out, the U.N. will send a survey team to North Korea in the middle of this year and appeal to all member countries to take part in the assistance program, the KYODO report said.

ROK: DPRK Said 'Seeking Big Change in Economic Policy'

SK1605120296 Seoul YONHAP in English 1140 GMT 16 May 96

["Pyongyang Is Seeking Big Change in Economic Policy" — YONHAP headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 16 (YONHAP) — North Korea is seeking a "sweeping turning point" so that they could take part in the world market economy, a senior North Korean official reportedly said Thursday.

"Because of the collapse of the socialist economic sphere, we are seeking a sweeping turning point so as to participate in the world market economy," Yi Song-nok, vice chairman of the External Economic Affairs Commission, was quoted as saying by the Japanese press.

Yi made the remarks in Pyongyang while discussing the North's future external economic policy during his meeting with a group of visiting Japanese journalists.

He also asked Japan to furnish additional rice to North Korea and expressed the willingness to promote economic and trade relations with Japan even before diplomatic normalization.

In this regard, he said, North Korea would like Japan to lift a ban on the export of high-tech and other advanced expertise to North Korea, remove discriminatory export insurance and tariffs, exchange trade offices, and provide knowhow on the exploration of seabed oil deposits.

Yi expressed the wish that the committee for expediting international trade he heads will send a delegation to Japan shortly to discuss the issue of revising the "North Korea-Japan general terms on commodity transactions."

He further said North Korea would consider it if Japan wants to provide more rice to the North without any conditions as it did last year.

Yi did not specify the amount of rice he wants to have from Japan, but said, "Last year, I told former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe that North Korea would be able to take over all the surplus rice of Japan totalling 800,000 tons."

Last year, Japan shipped 500,000 tons of surplus rice to Pyongyang on two occasions, some of them on a deferred payment basis.

ROK: DPRK Professors To Meet Government Officials in Canada

SK1505071096 Seoul YONHAP in English 0639 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 15 (YONHAP) — Three professors from North Korea are attending an academic conference in Vancouver, Canada, and will later speak with officials from the Canadian Government, a source reported Tuesday.

According to Chungang University Prof. Kim Sung-hun, who recently returned from Canada, three North Korean professors participated in a seminar Monday on the political and security situation on the Korean peninsula sponsored by the University of British Columbia.

The seminar, which began Saturday and runs through May 23, was proposed by Paul Evans, a York University professor and a leading North Korea expert, during his visit to the North last year, according to Ok Myong-chu, a political and economic officer at the Canadian Embassy in Seoul.

After the seminar, the professors plan to meet with Canadian Government officials in Ottawa, and are expected to discuss improving ties between both nations. A trip to the United States by the three is also seen as likely.

Ottawa and Pyongyang have no diplomatic ties and have had very few private level contacts; thus, Kim called the professors' visit "unusual."

Evans invited members of North Korea's academia to participate in such seminars "to expose" the reclusive nation to the world in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, and Vancouver, Ok explained, adding that the South Korean Government is fully aware of the trio's trip.

A Seoul official believed, "North Korea, as part of its recent omnidirectional diplomacy,' appears to be engaging in unofficial exchanges with Canada as a means of pushing for improved bilateral ties."

ROK: DPRK Reportedly Orders Overseas Agents To Return Home

SK1405041996 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 14 May 96 p 2

[Report by An Hui-chang]

[FBIS Translated Text] In March, North Korea ordered some of its agents in foreign countries (the so-called "red capitalists") to return home and, accordingly, some 70 to 80 agents have returned to North Korea as of early May. They were dispatched to China and Western countries between 1991 and 1993 to get a grasp of the capitalist market economic system there.

A high-ranking government source said on 13 May: "North Korea has appointed these agents to cadre-level posts of the External Economic Committee of the Administration Council or central and regional party organizations, thus making efficient use of their experiences." The source then analyzed: "Such steps coincided with the recent remarks by Kim Chong-u, chairman of the Committee for the Promotion of External Economic Cooperation, who emphasized North Korea's 'active approach towards a capitalist market.' Such a step is apparently aimed at laying the foundations for its full-scale promotion of trade with capitalist countries."

He continued: "North Korea has given the agents the special privilege of allowing them to keep the assets they acquired during their time overseas, regardless of the amount," and added, "it appears to be a means for accelerating their repatriation."

ROK: British Group on ROK's Scenario for Korean Reunification

SK1205010096 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0000 GMT 12 May 96

[YONHAP from Brussels]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jane's Group, a British organization specialized in military affairs, suggests that in the event the Kim Chong-il regime of North Korea collapsed, a transitional government composed of communists would be formed and rule the country for a while, and Korea would be reunified about 10 years later.

According to a weekly report by the Jane's Group, the ROK Government also hopes for the rule by a transitional government because it is concerned about the possible social and economic confusion following a sudden unification, and it has mapped out a unification scenario under this assumption.

The scenario cited by the weekly report is as follows: When the Kim Chong-il regime collapses, a reunification committee will be formed. The committee will govern economic activities, issue temporary currency to be used both in South and North Korea, and provide emergency food to North Korea. In addition, the border will be controlled to prevent confusion caused by the southward defection of North Koreans in large numbers, as well as to relieve China. At the same time, a special team composed of officials from ROK Government offices will gradually exercise its influence upon North Korea, and Korea will be reunified about 10 years after the collapse of the Kim Chong-il regime.

Quoting U.S. officials' remarks, the report adds that a bloody conflict following the collapse of the Kim Chong-il regime is also possible in North Korea.

ROK: DPRK To Conduct Investment Briefing for ROK, Japan

SK1405114096 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 14 May 96 p 2

[Report by Kang Hyo-sang]

[FBIS Translated Text] Over 200 ROK and Japanese businessmen plan to launch a joint survey on the Najin-Sonbong region investment environment this September.

The North Korean authorities decided last week to invite 200 to 300 ROK and Japanese businessmen and hold a briefing session — the biggest ever — on the investment environment on 11-17 September. They have guaranteed the safety of the ROK businessmen, as well as that of the Japanese businessmen. No large foreign inspection team has visited the Najin-Sonbong region so far.

It has been learned that a Japanese foundation named "the Economic Institute of the Sea of Japan Rim," whose director is Hisao Kanamori, has been promoting this project and plans to recruit members of the inspection team beginning next month, and that it will also recruit ROK businessmen through the Korea Industrial and Economic Institute in Tokyo, whose director is Song Chun.

The two countries' businessmen are scheduled to leave Niigata, Japan, on a chartered ship on 11 September and stay on board during their visit to the Najin-Sonbong region because of the poor accommodations there.

It has been also learned that they will bring their own food in light of North Korea's food crisis. They will have the opportunity to discuss ways for businesses of the two countries to jointly invest in the Najin-Sonbong region.

North Korea previously demanded a donation of around $200,000 from the joint-inspection team. But, it has withdrawn its demand and allowed ROK businessmen to join the inspection team.

ROK: Daily on North Korean Plans To Attract Foreign Investment

SK1605025196 (Internet) The Joong-Ang Ilbo WWW in English 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It was reported that North Korea plans to request an investment worth about 440 million dollars to foreign investors scheduled to participate in the first investment forum slated to be held at its Najin-Sonbong special economic zone from September 13-15.

According to North Korea's plans for attracting foreign investment, which were recently obtained by the Japanese daily, SANKEI SHIMBUN, Pyongyang wishes foreigners to invest in a total of 58 areas including food processing, beer brewery, needlework, wood processing, tiles, lighting equipment and watch manufacturing.

Although most of the areas are related to daily necessities, several high-tech areas are included such as the manufacturing of integrated circuits(IC).

ROK: Japan's SDP To Invite DPRK Party Delegation To Visit

SK1605091396 Seoul YONHAP in English 0832 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 16 (YONHAP) — Japan's Social Democratic Party (SDP) decided Thursday to invite a mission from North Korea's Workers' (Communist) Party to Tokyo later this month or early next month.

According to the decision made at a party caucus, the invitation will be sent by SDP Vice President Keiko Chiba to the North Korean Party's Secretary, Kim Yong-sun, with the number of people in the proposed delegation to be left up to Pyongyang.

A key component of Japan's ruling coalition, the SDP will also arrange for the proposed mission to meet with leaders of the two other coalition parties, the Liberal Democratic Party and the new party Sakigake.

Ruling coalition leaders are expected to urge the North Korean delegation in such meetings to accept the proposed four-way talks for a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.

They also plan to discuss the resumption of normalization talks between the two countries, suspended since 1992, and the prospect of additional Japanese rice assistance to North Korea.

Vice Chairman Yi Chong-hyok of the North's Asia-Pacific Peace Committee is likely to head the mission in place of Kim. Yi is in charge of Pyongyang's policy toward Japan and Kim's close aide.

ROK: Japan Ministry Denies Firing on ROK Fishing Vessel

SK1605030196 Seoul YONHAP in English 0249 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 16 (YONHAP) — South Korean fishing boat Kyonghae-ho 900 was not fired on, but a warning ball was thrown at it Monday, as it was running away after violating Japanese territorial waters off Tsushima Island, Japan's Maritime Safety Agency said Wednesday.

The agency was commenting on a YONHAP report Wednesday that Kyonghae-ho 900 was fired on by a Japanese patrol boat Monday night.

"Because a South Korean fishing boat violating Japanese territorial waters refused to heed an order to halt and continued toward territorial boundaries, a warning ball was thrown at the fishing boat," the agency said.

Patrol boat "Akikumo," found Kyonghae-ho 900 fishing in Japanese territorial waters 9.9 nautical miles northeast of Tsushima Island at around 11:25 PM Monday, ordered it to stop so that an on-board inspection could be conducted, but the fishing boat ignored the order and escaped to international waters by navigating in a zigzag fashion, according to the agency.

Assuming that the fishing boat violated the fishery law by evading an inspection in attendance, the patrol boat chased the fishing boat and threw at it a warning ball, which appears to have broken one of Kyonghae-ho 900's fish-lure lamps, the agency added.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, said that no shots were fired but a minimal means of control was taken. The incident is not expected to develop into a diplomatic row between the two countries, he added.

ROK: Report of Fishing Boat Being Fired on by Japanese Untrue

SK1605105496 Seoul YONHAP in English
1043 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 16 (YONHAP) — The report that a Korean fishing boat was fired on by a Japanese patrol ship near Japanese waters last Monday, turned out Thursday to be not true, according to the Fisheries Administration.

A maritime police source said Wednesday a Japanese patrol boat opened fire at Kyonghae-ho 900, damaging some fishing tools though there were no casualties.

"The truth was that the patrol boat, Akigumo, threw a marker to the fishing boat after it violated the Japanese waters, and the fishermen, astonished at the big noise caused by the impact of the marker, erroneously believed they were fired upon," a Fisheries Administration official said.

Saying that Kyonghae-ho is now engaged in fishing near the Cheju Island, the official said the boat, upon return to its home port, will be legally dealt with if it actually violated the Japanese waters.

ROK 'Might Object' to PRC Baseline for Territorial Waters

SK1605090096 Seoul YONHAP in English
0829 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 16 (YONHAP) — South Korea might object to three of the baseline coordinates China adopted Wednesday as the starting points for its 12 nautical-mile territorial waters, a Foreign Ministry official said Thursday.

The official insisted that they are rock islands which cannot be used as the starting point under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

China announced 77 coordinates Wednesday, that when connected form a "straight baseline" that will serve as the boundary line for China's 12-nautical mile territorial waters under the UN convention.

"Of that number, the 12 points from Shandong Peninsula to Shanghai could be the subject of concern because they can affect future talks for designating the 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zones of the two countries under the UN convention," he said.

South Korea can accept nine out of the 12 points as the starting points for China but needs to closely examine the viability of the remaining three points, namely no. 9 Macaibeng Island, no. 10 Waikejiao Island and no. 12 Haijiao Island, the official said, adding that they are uninhabited rock islets.

The Convention on the Law of the Sea stipulates that uninhabited rock islets in which people cannot live without outside economic assistance cannot serve as the starting point for 12-nautical mile territorial waters or 200-mile EEZs.

"More importantly the three points seem to violate the original intention of the straight baseline system which was introduced to complement the normal sea baseline principle," he said.

The normal baseline principle calls for the establishment of territorial waters that use the ebb tide seacoast as the starting point. The principle cannot be used, however, in the water surrounding the group of islands.

The straight baseline system, therefore, was introduced so groups of islands can also be used as starting points but countries are not supposed to use islands far away from their mainland, he said.

"The viability of the three points previously mentioned should be under scrutiny not only because they are uninhabited rock islands but also because they are unusually far away from mainland China compared with the nine other points," the official said.

Any country other than South Korea which shares the Yellow Sea with China can raise objections with the viability of the straight baseline announced by China Wednesday in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, according to the official.

The convention has yet to firmly establish international practices concerning straight baselines.

"The result is that disputes tend to remain between countries involved because countries tend to insist on the viability of the unilaterally announced baselines which are often disputed by neighboring countries," he said.

The official said that there's no international dispute resolution system for setting straight sea baselines, adding that "That's why we have emphasized bilateral negotiations with China or Japan in setting sea boundaries."

Ministry officials are expecting time-consuming negotiations with China and Japan which have both recently declared their own EEZ.

In 1992 China declared its own 12-nautical-mile territorial waters based on the straight sea baseline. It has failed, however, to announce where its territorial waters begin.

"Now that China has announced its own straight baseline for the 12-mile territorial waters, we feel comfortable entering another round of negotiations with China," an official said.

South Korea, meanwhile, announced in 1977 that its waters in the South and Yellow Seas, which are sprinkled with islands, will have straight sea baselines while adopting the normal baselines in the East Sea.

With the absence of a fishery agreement between Seoul and Beijing, the two sides have temporarily accepted China's Mao Zedong line and South Korea's Syngman Yi line as territorial water boundaries.

China's 12-mile territorial waters, based on the straight baseline announced Wednesday, does not fall beyond the Mao Zedong line, according to the official.

Although the UN Convention allows up to 200-nautical mile EEZs, no point of the Yellow Sea is wider than 400-miles, leaving it up to South Korea and China open to negotiate the boundaries.

In announcing its straight baseline Wednesday, China failed to declare the baseline beyond Shandong Peninsula. Ministry officials say China might have failed to reach a broad understanding on the announcement of 12-mile territorial waters.

North Korea has yet to join the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

South Korean and Chinese officials met in Seoul last month to resolve differences on fishery and other sea-related issues.

ROK: KOTRA To Open Home-Page on Internet

SK1605051296 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 May 96 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) will set up the "Internet KOTRA Home-Page" to introduce products of its member companies next month, a KOTRA spokesman said yesterday.

The KOTRA home-page, designed to promote products of its 7,120 member companies, is one of its new 10 projects to boost exports. The projects were worked out after exports in April were sluggish, the spokesman said.

Other projects include sending market exploration teams abroad, participating in more overseas trade fairs and helping businesses establish overseas retail web.

Also included among the projects are marketing of Korean parts to Japan, developing promising export products and holding new market explanation sessions.

KOTRA plans to increase the number of overseas Korea Merchandise Centers from the current 10 to 15 and send more than 100 small-and medium-size businesses to overseas trade fairs, the spokesman said.

ROK, Laos Sign Investment Guarantee, Cooperation Agreements

SK1505104296 Seoul YONHAP in English 0855 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 15 (YONHAP) — South Korea and Laos Wednesday signed agreements on investment guarantee and economic, scientific and technological cooperation to enhance bilateral economic cooperation.

Foreign Minister Kong No-myong and his Laotian counterpart Somsavat Lengsavat signed the accords which Foreign Ministry officials hope will pave the way for South Korean firms to begin doing business in the Southeast Asian state which is in the center of the Mekong River development project involving Vietnam and Cambodia, so said.

During the meeting between Kong and Lengsavat, the two sides also agreed that they seek ways to strengthen cooperation in ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and other regional security forums, Foreign Ministry Spokesman So Tae-won said.

The meeting between Kong and Lengsavat also addressed ways for South Korean firms to convey its development experience to Laos, So said.

The Laotian minister called for South Korean firms to increase investment in Laos while stressing the need for bilateral cultural and human resources exchange.

The two sides agreed to come up with ways for South Korea to take part in the Mekong River development project which involves several Southeast Asian states.

The two sides, which normalized relations last December, agreed that they open their embassies in each other's capital by the end of the year.

ROK: Deputy Prime Minister Na: No Change in Chaebol Policy

SK1505073096 Seoul YONHAP in English
0613 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 15 (YONHAP) — There will be no change in the government's policy toward business conglomerates (chaebol), including a plan to lower gradually the ceiling on mutual debt payment guarantee between companies affiliated with the nation's 30 largest chaebol.

Emerging from his meeting with Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Pak Chae-yun, Fair Trade Commission Chairman Kim In-ho and Senior Chongwadae [presidential offices] Economic Secretary Ku Pon-yong at the Plaza Hotel Wednesday morning, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance and Economy Minister Na Ung-pae told reporters that they had reconfirmed there would be no change in the frame of government policy toward chaebol.

The policy includes plans to prevent subsidies of the 30 largest chaebol from standing guarantee for their sister firms' loans by 2001 after a gradual decrease of the upper limit on such payment guarantees and encourage chaebol to specialize in key companies in their respective trade lines, instead of expanding new areas.

Na said they had also discussed prices, exchange rates and balance-of-payments deficits in the meeting, in addition to the above plans.

The Federation of Korean industries, which represents chaebol, has asked the government to reconsider the plan to lower the ceiling on mutual debt payment guarantees between chaebol's subsidies.

ROK: Article on Conflict Between Ruling, Opposition Parties

SK1605053996 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 16 May 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With the ruling New Korea Party nearing the buildup of a congressional majority, opposition parties are planning to take to the streets in protest.

Two major opposition parties — the National Congress for New Politics and the United Liberal Democrats — yesterday vowed to mobilize all possible means to thwart the ruling party's drive to control the National Assembly.

For this, they are determined to hold joint outdoor rallies in the electoral districts of former opposition lawmakers-elect who have joined the ruling party.

The opposition parties are also planning to make an appeal to the Constitutional Court for a ruling on the ruling party's move when the ruling party builds a congressional majority.

They said they regarded the ruling party's attempt to control the National Assembly through recruitment of lawmakers-elect as an act destroying the constitutional order.

"The ruling party is trying to arbitrarily change the political map voters chose in the April general elections. It amounts to a violation of the people's right to form the National Assembly (in the way they please)," said Rep. Pak Sang-chon floor leader of the main opposition party.

Key officeholders of the two opposition parties are due to meet today to discuss concrete action programs to fight against the ruling party.

The opposition parties' determination to wage street protests is the latest in their reactions to the ruling party's drive to recruit lawmakers-elect.

Earlier, the opposition parties decided to boycott the inaugural session of the National Assembly unless the ruling party stops its recruitment drive.

The ruling party failed to secure a majority in the 299-member National Assembly when it won 139 seats in the April general elections.

But the party has since drawn in independent and opposition lawmakers-elect in an effort to control the National Assembly before it is inaugurated in early June.

The party, which now holds 149 seats, one shy of a congressional majority, is expected to secure a congressional majority soon.

The party is planning to start negotiations with opposition parties over the opening of the inaugural session soon after it secures a congressional majority.

But a party official said the party will push for the opening of the National Assembly inaugural session without the opposition parties' agreement if they boycott it.

In response, leaders of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics vowed to fight against the ruling party when they held a meeting yesterday.

"We will block any attempt by the ruling party to build a congressional majority through arbitrary means," said Han Kwang-ok, secretary-general of the opposition party.

The opposition United Liberal Democrats decided to hold a rally in Yoido Plaza, southern Seoul, to display what it claimed are illegal campaign posters and gifts by ruling party candidates in their campaigns.

"We are determined to sharpen our attack against the ruling party," said party floor leader Yi Chong-mu.

ROK: Presidential Hopeful Pak Chang-chong Meets Kim Yun-hwan

SK1605052696 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 May 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pak Chan-chong, one of the strong presidential hopefuls in the ruling New Korea Party [NKP], met with former NKP chairman Kim Yun-hwan in Japan.

Pak, who returned from his trip to Japan Tuesday, did not deny having met Kim, when asked to reveal what he discussed with him.

Pak only said it was an "encounter by chance," playing down any political implication of his meeting with Kim.

When pressed to reveal who "initiated" the meeting, Pak reluctantly said, "Kim is older than me...," indicating that he approached Kim for the meeting.

As Pak has no support base in the party, it is wildly speculated that he may have sized up whether Kim might be willing to help him in his bid for the presidential nomination of the ruling party.

Former NKP chairman Kim may have his own plan, too. Upon learning of the situation that he has to resign as NKP chairman during his meeting with President Kim Yong-sam, who is also president of the NKP, Kim held a series of meetings with party stalwarts who are considering entering the race, apparently to find out what his future role will be in the party.

Kim, who is said to be one of the candidates for the speakership of the National Assembly, sent word throughout the party that no one can wrench the party nomination unless supported by the group of lawmakers hailing from Taegu and Kyongsang-pukto, whom he wants to stitch together into a strong faction within the party.

Meantime, Pak said yesterday that he believes the party's candidate for the presidential election should be chosen in a democratic way that can be accepted by the people.

"The in-house nomination race has to be not only democratic but a sort of festival."

He asserted that the free and democratic competition for the NKP's nomination will be a good chance to show the public the difference between the ruling and opposition parties, indicating the nomination race in the opposition camps will simply be a formality in anointing the two Kims, Kim Tae-chung of the National Congress for New Politics and Kim Chong-pil of the United Liberal Democrats.

His remarks on the matter of the presidential candidate came on the heels of the remarks of former prime minister Yi Hoe-chang, also a strong presidential hopeful, that the nomination race should be a "real" contest both in name and reality.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Malaysia 'Prepared' To Help Southern Lebanon Rebuild

96SE0080A Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 3 May 96

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kepala Batas, 2 May—If asked, Malaysia is prepared to consider proposals to help rebuild Southern Lebanon, which has been almost destroyed as a result of Israeli attacks.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said that Malaysia's readiness is consistent with national policy and that Malaysia desires to give material help or any other form of aid deemed appropriate.

He said that in the past, Malaysia was also involved in efforts to help Cambodia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Therefore, he said, Malaysia has no problem with considering aid in some form to rebuild Lebanon, if requested.

He said this to reporters after accepting the UMNO [United Malays National Organization] flag at Freedom Bridge on the Kedah-Pulau Pinang border. The flag had been carried in a procession by about 2,000 UMNO members from Kedah in connection with a flag run for the 50th anniversary of UMNO.

The Kedah UMNO flag procession was led by Chief Minister Tan Sri Osman Aroff.

Upon arrival at the middle of the bridge at about 1615 hours, the group was welcomed by Abdullah and Datuk Dr. Ibrahim Saad, deputy chairman of the state UMNO Liaison Committee, and about 100 people from UMNO Youth of the Kepala Batas Division.

Also taking part in welcoming the participants were Datuk Yahaya Abdul Hamid, speaker of the State Legislature; Azhar Ibrahim, member of the State Legislature from Penaga; and Hilmi Abdul Rashid, member of the State Legislature from Bertam.

Abdullah said that the effort to help Lebanon is not limited to the government but also involves the private sector.

"Malaysia obtained the cooperation of the private sector in helping to rebuild Bosnia. Therefore, it is our policy to help any country needing assistance, after the parties to a dispute seek a settlement.

"Besides helping Lebanon, Malaysia also wants to see the disputing parties in Afghanistan seek approaches toward settlement at the conference table," he said.

He called the flag run for the 50th anniversary of UMNO a symbol of the history of UMNO's struggle to uphold and defend the nation.

He said he was sure that the run would also increase the enthusiasm of young people to continue the struggle of the party, which has faced a variety of challenges over the last 50 years.

Cambodia

Cambodia: Hun Sen Comments on ROK Ties

BK1505125996 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Chong Tae-tong, ROK ambassador to Thailand, and H.E. Uch Kim-an, Cambodian state secretary for foreign affairs and international cooperation, signed a memorandum of understanding [MOU] at the Foreign Ministry on the morning of 15 May on cooperation in establishing official missions in Seoul and Phnom Penh. The ceremony was held under the lofty chairmanship of Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC]. H.E. Ing Huot, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, was also present.

On this occasion, Second Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen gave the following news conference:

[Begin recording] [Hun Sen, in Cambodian with passage-by-passage translation into English; processed from the Cambodian] We believe the agreement signed by his excellency the ambassador representing the ROK Government and his excellency the state secretary representing the RGC is a step forward to a new important stage; that is, to normalize political relations at the ambassadorial level in the near future. I can say this is a beginning, not the end. This is a beginning step toward a higher level. This is a good start that provides the possibility of ROK investors coming to the Kingdom of Cambodia to take part in the reconstruction, rehabilitation, and redevelopment of the country. We have made ROK investors feel comfortable because of the presence of a mission to protect their interests. I would like to wish all the best for good relations and hope that they will develop and move toward a new level.

ROK news and television correspondents are prepared to ask me questions. I would like to conclude my remarks now and give them a chance to ask questions.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English, followed by Cambodian translation] Do you want the ROK to take part in the (?rehabilitation of Cambodia)?

[Hun Sen] It is known that the ROK is one the Asian dragons in the economic and technological sectors. Developed and developing countries are in close economic, trade, and political contact with Korea. Cambodia, which is among those countries, needs assistance and investment from the South Korean people. What we really need, apart from possible unconditional or humanitarian aid, is for various ROK companies to bring capital and technology in help in our development. We need further investment in railroad restoration; no country or foreign company has paid attention to this so far. I will get in touch with the Daewoo representative in Phnom Penh so they can start a study on the process of rebuilding the railroad between Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville on a BOT [build-operate-transfer] basis.

Everyone knows that without protection for South Korean investors, Korean companies cannot do anything significant here. That is why we organized this signing ceremony at this time. I cannot elaborate on all we need, because there are a lot of vacuums that need to be filled. In Cambodia everything is needed except AIDS. [laughter]

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Hun Sen] At first, we should be clear on what is stipulated in the MOU that we can offer each other. I believe that although we are not giving the details of the MOU, the representatives of the two countries have issued a joint press release to be published later. Although we call them mission representatives, they will enjoy the same diplomatic immunities stipulated in the 1961 Vienna Convention. The press release will contain all those points. So this is more than sufficient to allow the ROK to operate like others and for Korean investors to receive protection here.

Another concrete thing that I would like to confirm is that Korean investors coming to the Kingdom of Cambodia, like companies from other countries, will be welcomed and protected by Cambodia's investment law. This includes security that we provide to all investors here.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Hun Sen] I can say that the signing is historically important for relations between the two countries. Although Cambodia and the ROK have not yet established relations, it is important that we have never been enemies. It is important that we already have unofficial friendly relations. The Kingdom of Cambodia's diplomats and I have worked with Bangkok-based ROK ambassadors one after another to arrive at this arrangement. Therefore, ! dare say that we have proceeded from a good start. This is because there is no obstacle to relations between the two countries that needs to be settled. It is important that special advantages have been given to the Kingdom of Cambodia, which is in need of aid and investment, and to ROK companies that can benefit from investment here. These are economic and social as well as political advantages. We have not been enemies. At this juncture, we need to join forces within the framework of an Asian-Pacific region that needs to be developed at the end of this century for the sake of the next century.

I do not want to hide anything from you. I have met with difficulty in several attempts to travel to Seoul. In 1990, Mr. [name indistinct], who I consider my foster brother, tried to take me from Tokyo to Seoul. Last year I wanted to use the pretext of medical treatment to go to Seoul, but I realized that it was improper for me as a prime minister of a sovereign country to go secretly like a thief to the ROK, a sovereign state and a UN member.

As we already decided at a cabinet meeting to become an ASEAN member, South Korea, a full and official ASEAN partner, cannot shun us. This is the reason I intend to visit to Seoul at an appropriate time when H.E. President Kim Yong-sam can receive me. I will make the visit openly and officially. It will be a visit, not a medical checkup.

There is a clear difference between today and the past. Before, his excellency the ambassador came from Bangkok to talk to me quietly, away from television cameras, photographers, and reporters, but today we talk openly, we sign openly, and what we have done is published worldwide. I think what we have done is proper and correct according to the law.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Hun Sen] Thank you very much for that question. It allows me to address the ROK people. Today, the representatives of the two countries have signed an MOU that can be considered a start toward better and higher things. I want to tell the ROK people that friendly relations are an indispensable objective. I hope the missions we exchange will create political, cultural, and other relations as well. I expect to welcome Korean investors bringing capital and technology for economic, social, and human resources development here. I also hope that the ROK will consider providing unconditional or humanitarian aid to the Cambodian people. I wish to reaffirm to the Korean people that Cambodia will always behave like a good friend.

Cambodian and other foreign reporters can now ask questions. You, especially the local Cambodian reporters and Cambodian reporters working for foreign press agencies, should ask unambiguous questions that will be recorded.

[Chhom Mayarit] I am Chhom Mayarit from the Voice of America. How will the Cambodian king be hurt by this agreement?

[Hun Sen] What we have done is the RGC's affair. We have asked advice from his majesty the king since 1992. His majesty can still refuse to accept credentials presented to him. Therefore, an arrangement at the mission level that only requires the mission chief to present himself to the foreign minister is acceptable to both the king and the RGC. This appears to be unfair to South Korea, but it accepts the arrangement at this point. So I thank the ROK for its understanding of our difficulties and its acceptance of our offer at this level. Officially, the two countries should have envoys at the ambassadorial level because we are both UN members.

Therefore, I think nothing hurts the king because the monarch also takes into account Cambodia's political, economic, and social interests. What makes him uncomfortable is his past promise to Marshall Kim Il-song.

[UPI correspondent, in English] I am from UPI [words indistinct].

[Hun Sen] I think that if it seriously considers this, North Korea will find nothing that affects it. We are not decreasing the level of relations with North Korea. We will continue normal relations. If I were a North Korean leader, I would understand and generously tolerate the Kingdom of Cambodia because these relations are lower than our relations with North Korea, which is on an equal footing with South Korea. I do not expect any negative reaction from North Korea.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English followed by Cambodian translation] We are now talking about North Korea. I wonder about another part of the world with similar relations — Taiwan and China. Are you considering a similar agreement with Taiwan?

[Hun Sen] I wish to stress that the case of North and South Korea is completely different from Taiwan. North and South Korea have both been UN members since 1991. So we are entitled not only to establish missions but to move toward upgrading the missions to the ambassadorial level in accordance with the law.

On Taiwan, I stress that the official stance of the RGC is to implement two important points — first, we follow a one-China policy; second, the issue of Taiwan is China's internal affair. We will neither implement a two-China policy nor interfere in the internal affairs of China. This does not mean that we do not welcome investors from Taiwan. We welcome all Taiwan investors who join us in the trade, economic, and tourist sectors or in humanitarian matters.

[AFP correspondent, in English] I am [name indistinct] from AFP [words indistinct].

[Hun Sen] So far, the king has not made any comment. I want to tell you that 10 hours before the cabinet made the decision, I called the king personally to inform him and ask his advice. I also consulted the prince krompreah [First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh]. So we have a consensus within the RGC on these relations and this represents the wish of the people as well. [end recording]

Indonesia

Indonesian Officer: Eight Irian Jaya Rebels, Two Hostages Die

BK1605074696 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday's military operation to free hostages held by the Irian Jaya GPK [security disturbance movement] since 8 January 1996 managed to save the lives of nine hostages, but two hostages, namely Navy Panekenan and Yosias Lasamahu, died after being tortured by the GPK abductors.

Speaking to reporters at the Sheraton Hotel in Timika today, Brigadier General Prabowo Subianto, commander of the task force to free the hostages, said that eight GPK members were shot dead while two others were captured during the military operation. The abductors were believed to be trying to take away and murder the hostages when they were killed. Military authorities are now still trying to identify GPK leaders Kelly Kwalik and Daniel Yudas Kogoya among the eight dead abductors.

Indonesia: General Views Operation To Free Irian Jaya Hostages

BK1605015696 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia [ABRI] has given special attention to efforts to secure the release of hostages held by the Irian Jaya security disturbance movement [GPK]. Sophisticated and modern equipment such as unmanned aircraft were used to minimize possible casualties.

Speaking on the ABRI's success in releasing nine hostages in Irian Jaya, Lieutenant General Suyono, chief of the ABRI General Staff, said in Jakarta yesterday that the ABRI used the sophisticated equipment for the first time as a manifestation of a modern military strategy. He said the sophisticated equipment were used to prevent casualties among the hostages or local residents which the Irian Jaya GPK frequently used as human shields.

Lt. Gen. Suyono said the six-day military operation to release the hostages started on 9 May. The ABRI commander instructed Brig. Gen. Prabowo to launch an operation to release the hostages after the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] failed in its mission as a mediator. Nine of the 11 hostages held by the Irian Jaya GPK have been released, while the remaining two — Navy Panekenan and Yosias Lasamahu — have not been released. There was no shootout on the sixth day of the operation yesterday. Nor were there casualties among the ABRI personnel or local residents.

Meanwhile, the British and Netherlands Governments have thanked and praised ABRI for releasing their citizens from the Irian Jaya GPK's captivity. British Ambassador Graham Burtono and Netherlands Ambassador Paul Brouwer said on separate occasions that their governments were happy over the fact the military operation succeeded without any casualties. Knowing the difficult terrain in Irian Jaya, they were very impressed by the ABRI's efforts to secure the release of the hostages.

Indonesia: Significance of Jakarta Economic Forum Viewed

BK1605015396 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 14 May 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Suharto's speech at the 1996 Indonesia Summit economic forum in Jakarta yesterday reflected the government's consistent stand in implementing its economic policies. Narrating Indonesia's economic course over the past 25 years — with economic growth, distribution, and national stability being the main highlights — President Suharto said the next 25-year period of development, known as the Trilogy of National Development, will highlight the same theme.

The head of state's remarks at the elite gathering organized by the Office of the Coordinating Minister for Production and Distribution and THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE are worth paying attention to because 25 years ago, when we first began our development program, our per capita income was only $70. Now, at the end of the First Development Master Plan, our per capita income stands at $920, a 13-fold increase. The reason for the dramatic increase is that the government has consistently implemented its national economic development program, which has brought prosperity to 190 million Indonesians. The government will certainly continue this development program for the next 25 years.

Is it possible to achieve this goal? This is a challenge we must all face through an indefatigable struggle. The free trade era is coming soon — the ASEAN countries will adopt the free trade area scheme in 2003, while the Asia-Pacific region will do the same by 2020. By that time, Indonesia's products must be able to penetrate global markets with their competitive edge. This means that we must maintain the principle that the country's industry should be supported by a strong agricultural sector. In this connection, Indonesia's economic credibility is boosted by the fact that we have paid our foreign debts earlier than scheduled.

With the presence of world-class speakers at the 1996 Indonesian Summit economic forum, we believe we will obtain useful feedback to enable us to make further progress in our economic development program.

Laos

Laos: Foreign Minister Visits ROK, Philippines

BK1305112896 Vientiane KPL in English 0937 GMT 13 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane, May 13 (KPL) — In response to the invitation of foreign ministers of the Republic of Korea and the Philippines, Lao Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat and his delegation left here yesterday to pay official visits to the Republic of Korea on May 14-18 and the Philippines on May 23-25.

During the visits, the Lao delegation and the Republic of Korean side will sign an agreement on investment protection and promotion and an agreement on technical and economic cooperation. The Lao delegation will meet with businessmen of the Republic of Korea.

This visit to the Republic of Korea is the first made by high ranking Lao official following the establishment of the diplomatic relation between the two countries since 1995.

The visit to the Philippines by the Lao foreign ministry delegation will concentrate on technical and economic discussion, Lao PDR's [Lao People's Democratic Republic] preparation to become an ASEAN member.

The Lao delegation will pay a three-day visit to Japan.

Philippines

Philippines: Ramos Renews Support for Expanded Japanese Role

OW1505142196 Tokyo KYODO in English 1359 GMT 15 May 96

[By Mitsuo Kimura]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manila, May 15 KYODO — President Fidel Ramos on Wednesday [15 May] reiterated the Philippines' support for an expanded Japanese political and security role in the Asia-Pacific region, saying this is needed to maintain stability.

"We are asking our neighbors to recognize the need for Japan to play a bigger role, not just in the economic field here in the Asia-Pacific but also in the political field, which includes the security sector," Ramos told KYODO news and the Japanese daily YOMIURI SHIMBUN at the Malacanang Presidential Palace.

Ramos said his administration supports the agreement on closer bilateral security cooperation forged in April by Japan and the United States.

A joint declaration issued by Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Tokyo last month suggested that Japan should play an expanded regional role under the U.S.-Japan security treaty.

A high-ranking Chinese military officer warned last week that the security accord could pose a danger, saying Tokyo could use it as an excuse to meddle in internal disputes in the region.

But Ramos dismissed China's fear as "very speculative" at this point. "After all, these are defensive measures to guarantee the enduring stability of the Asia-Pacific region," he said.

Ramos pointed out that the Philippines has expressed its support for Japan's desire to be given a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

The Philippine president is scheduled to leave for Tokyo on Thursday to join other Asian leaders who will attend a two-day business conference sponsored by the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN, a leading economic daily.

Ramos said he will take up a string of economic and political issues with Hashimoto during their scheduled meeting in Tokyo, including official development assistance (ODA).

Ramos is urging the Philippine congress to pass an "ODA optimization" bill that would exclude foreign aid from a 10 billion dollar foreign borrowing limit enacted 12 years ago.

He said failure to pass the bill would mean the derailment of socioeconomic projects, particularly infrastructure projects. Japan is the largest ODA contributor to the Philippines.

Ramos said he will also urge Japanese businesspeople to invest in the Philippines.

Philippines: Ramos Welcomes PRC, Russia as ASEAN Partners

BK1605045396 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 16 May 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Ramos yesterday welcomed the elevation of China and Russia as full dialogue partners of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. He said the two countries' elevation to full dialogue partner status will enhance regional peace and stability and spur deeper cooperation in the economic and technological fields. China and Russia have been ASEAN's consultative partners for almost two years. ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. "The full dialogue partner status of China and Russia will ensure a positive balance," Mr. Ramos said.

Philippines: Studies Planned After Spratlys Survey With SRV

BK1505084296 Manila PNA in English 0338 GMT 15 May 96

[Report by Johnny C. Nunez — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manila, May 13 (PNA) — Filipino and Vietnamese marine scientists have vowed to undertake future cooperative studies in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea. Marine scientists of the two countries have just completed their joint oceanographic and marine scientific survey of the South China Sea. Their countries have standing claims to certain islands in the area claimed wholly by the People's Republic of China.

Twelve Filipino scientists and as many number of their Vietnamese counterparts conducted their survey aboard the RPS Explorer, the 600-ton survey ship of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The ship, which left Manila last 24 April, collected data, information and samples from 20 South China Sea sampling stations, including an area in the northwest sector of the Spratly Island Group.

The ship also sailed to Vietnam and docked at Ho Chi Minh City along the Saigon River on 3 May. The scientists held a series of workshops at the Ministry of Science in the Vietnamese capital where they exchanged preliminary observations on what they have just accomplished.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said the two groups will meet in three months time to exchange information on the data and samples they have collected.

The joint scientific survey is part of the confidence-building measures provided in the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea signed by Vietnam and the Philippines in November 1995.

President Ramos first proposed the Code of Conduct to Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet when he visited Vietnam in 1994. It was signed in Manila when the Vietnamese premier visited here last year.

Vietnam and the Philippines have overlapping territorial claims in the Spratly Islands, together with Malaysia, Taiwan and China. Manila and Ho Chi Minh have agreed to temporarily set aside their conflicting claims in favor of constructive cooperation.

Philippines Chamber of Commerce Official on Regional Issues

BK1505090196 Manila PNA in English 0344 GMT 15 May 96

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manila, May 14 (PNA) — The leaders of the business organizations in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region have drawn out several strategies in improving the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) economic landscape.

In a press conference, Benigno D. Ricafort, director of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) which is playing host to the Asia Pacific Business Network III (APB Net III), said the private sector has realized the need to focus attention on the SMEs as the future backbone of every APEC economy in the long term.

The APB-NET is a forum of leaders of principal and national and regional business organizations in the APEC region. It was established during the Sixth Meeting of the APEC working group on trade promotion in Bali, Indonesia on August, 1994.

The APB-NET provides avenue for matching sessions of private entrepreneurs worldwide as well as a major mechanism in the process of building up the entry and participation of the private sector in the APEC.

For the APB-NET III, the PCCI has scheduled two successive meetings to be held 2-6 September in Shangri-La, Manila and the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) in Cebu City, respectively.

"We hope that the APB-NET III will draw more concern for the development of the SMEs and the private sector in general," Ricafort said.

Aside from the SMEs, the week-long business fora will also focus on priority issues set during the APEC Osaka declaration in 1995, such as human resource management, mobility of business people, telecommunications and information, trade promotion and trade and investment data.

Ricafort also bared this year's APB-NET meeting will highlight successful achievements of young entrepreneurs worldwide and make it a focal point of discussion "so that it can serve as an inspiration among SME entrepreneurs who are still struggling in advancing their respective businesses.

Philippines: Rival MNLF, MILF Rebels Clash in Basilan

BK1605085396 Manila PNA in English 1225 GMT 15 May 96

[Report by Felino M. Santos — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zamboanga City, May 15 (PNA) — Two rival groups of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), engaged each other in a two-hour running gun battle in Sitio [village district] Bacod, Pintasan Barangay [village], Tuburan municipality in Basilan early Saturday morning.

The Southern Command [Southcom] learned about the clash only this morning from reports relayed to this city from the province.

An undetermined number of casualties were sustained by both sides when the MNLF group led by commanders Faisal Samma Moksin, Abpuwa Samma, Habib Bata, and Sulaiman Ali stormed the MILF camp in the barangay.

The MILF under one Commander Usoh Kon Gapul were outnumbered and withdrew into the hinterlands of Tuburan Town.

Reports said the attacking MNLF, numbering over 30 men, were armed with high-powered guns.

The MNLF group reportedly attacked the MILF group after Faisal's father was killed by Gapul due to a land conflict. The report did not say when the killing occurred.

Last May 6, Commander Sulaiman Ali also shot to death a rival rebel commander named Diri Hasan, alias Commander Lawin at Sitio Manglut, Upper Sinancapan, Tuburan.

The two rebel leaders dueled each other with M-16 armalite rifles. The duel between Hasan and Ali was reported to the authorities by a close aide of Tuburan mayor Hajirun Jamiri.

The slain commander Lawin was said to be involved in the holdup and hostage taking of two people in Marangan, this city last November. The hostages were taken to Tuburan and released only some three months ago.

Southcom Spokesman Major Fredesvindo Covarrubias said it cannot be determined if the duel between Ali Hasan has also something to do with the MNLF-MILF clash last Saturday.

Philippines: Newest Peace Formula for Mindanao Viewed

BK1605041596 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Congressman Eduardo Ermita, member of government panel negotiating with the Moro National Liberation Front, has announced that the formation of a peace and development council will help resolve differences between the government and the MNLF. According to Ermita, the council formation is an effective alternative to the provisional government demanded by the MNLF.

[Begin recording, in English] [Ermita in progress]...ways and means within our Constitution, to overcome the impasse, and so we are now in that process of looking for these ways and means that are constitutional [pause]

[Unidentified correspondent, interrupting] Any resources? Any... [pause]

[Ermita] Indeed, this is the result of the proposal of Congressman and Deputy Speaker [Siminda Datumanong] of Maguindanao and Secretary Aguirre. They re looking at the provision of the Constitution, I believe the Article X Section 15 pertaining to the authority given the president to organize regional development councils and similar bodies that will help in the coordination of development efforts, as well as help in supervising peace and order in certain areas.

[Unidentified correspondent] But, it is not the provisional government.

[Ermita] It definitely is not a provisional government, because as I have said, you cannot establish a new government together with the existing ones. This will be violative of the Constitution. [end recording]

Thailand

Thailand: Border Talks With Burmese 'Satisfactory'

BK1605040796 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 May 96 p 3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mae Hong Son — Thai-Burmese relations are likely to improve at the local level following talks on border problems held recently in Burma.

Thai officials said negotiations on chronic border problems between the two countries were "satisfactory" during a May 12 meeting of the Township Border Committee.

Col Thawatchai Watthana, commander of the 7th Infantry Regiment's special task force, led a 19-member team to meet the Burmese committee at Mae Jae District in Burma's Doi Koh Province opposite Ban Lao in Tambon Mae Khong, Mae Sariang District, sources said.

The Burmese side comprised Lt-Col Tin Tun, commander of the 430th task force, and other senior-officers.

Rangoon claimed Thailand was supporting Burma's ethnic minority guerrilla groups operating along the common border by allowing them to seek shelter in Thai territory and launch military operations against the Burmese Government.

The local Thai committee denied the allegations, saying Thailand was helping only Burmese refugees on humanitarian grounds.

Both sides later agreed to hold a monthly meeting to clear up border disputes and strengthen bilateral ties, the sources said.

Thailand: Bank Views Investment Opportunities in Burma

BK1605040396 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 May 96 p 17

["Burma Investment" by the Research Department of the Bangkok Bank: "Burma's Economic Reforms Prompt Foreign Investors To Look Again"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Burmese economy is in the final stage of its short four-year development plan, covering the fiscal years 1993-96.

It is expected that average annual growth over the period will be 7.7 percent, high enough to conclude that the Burmese Government has been successful in this stage of developing the country.

Since fiscal 1989 the government has implemented an important economic reform plan: making use of market mechanisms, encouraging private business, lifting price controls, accepting foreign investment, restructuring and liberalizing the financial system, accepting foreign banks, restructuring taxes and promoting exports. The effects of these reforms have ensured that as of September 1995, investment in 159 projects amounted to US$3.05 billion.

Burma is rich in resources and has inexpensive labour. However, its undemocratic political system and poor human rights record have left the country with very few friends.

Nevertheless, the new constitution has been criticised as ensures too much power for the military, while the people seriously question whether fair elections are feasible.

This gives rise to worrying problems, for example, how the opposition will handle the current situation and whether disturbances will take place, and also whether the government will be ostracised by the world community.

These concerns could have a negative effect on foreign assistance projects, and on the confidence of investors.

The latter are particularly concerned about the official exchange rate which is far too high at six kyat to one U.S. dollar. Even though the government has foreign exchange certificates (FEC) that it is willing for the private sector to hold as cash, liquidity is lacking.

Thai investors may be concerned that their investment in Burma could be affected by skirmishes along the Thai-Burma border. However, in the overall situation, it is thought that these conflicts do not have a serious effect on investment and that Burma has good investment opportunities.

The Rangoon government is accepting diversified investment. Local monthly wages range from US$20-100. Investment may be in three forms: wholly-owned ventures, production-sharing or profit-sharing.

Large expanses of land are suitable for agriculture. Requests can be made to lease the land for 30 years, the tenure of which can be extended. Rent may be waived for two to eight years, and tax on income may be exempt for three years. There are 14 types of products permitted for export: rice, maize, five kinds of beans, sesame, rubber, cashew nuts, castor beans, coffee, vegetables and fruit.

The government allows the import of 10 types of farm implements: ploughing implements, fertilizer, cement, water pumps, hydraulic digging machinery, steel bars, seeds, manual earth-crushing implements, dumper loaders, and tools.

Investors may be interested in agro-industry and agricultural processing, such as production of agricultural machinery, sugar, seeds, insecticide, canned food, animal feed, cold storage and others. Or they may be interested in animal husbandry and aquaculture.

The government allows concessions in forestry and joint ventures in the fishing industry. Many Thai business people are interested in both of these fields, but problems exist due to misunderstandings and conflicts of interests.

In mining, there are various minerals of real interest: gold, copper, lead, building stone, limestone nickel and precious stones. The government may grant concessions on a bloc basis. Some areas are designated for government activity in which it is looking for interested partners to coinvest in order to introduce modern mining technology.

There are six energy-related companies investing on a production-sharing basis. Companies that have found natural gas include a joint venture between Total and Unocal at their Yadana well, where reserves are estimated at 5.7 trillion cubic feet. A contract to sell gas to Thailand starts in 1998.

Another company is a joint venture involving Premier/Texaco/Nippon Oil, with the Yetagun well with reserves estimated at 1.2 trillion cubic feet. This group has a refinery at Thanlyin. The government plans to allow the private sector to purchase oil from this refinery, and to import oil freely.

Other interesting industries are the petrochemical, carbon dioxide and methanol industries. Another industry waiting for co-investors is electricity generating, using either hydro or gas.

Thai investors who want to invest in labour-intensive industries in Burma should study the successes and problems of existing businesses. Currently there are 26 factories in the textile/clothing sector, 20 in the food sector, 12 in the medicine and chemical sector, 15 factories in ceramics, 11 in paper, and 10 in other sectors.

Contacting banks in Burma is still not as convenient as it should be. The government operates four specialised banks and 15 private banks. Only four banks [are] authorised to undertake foreign exchange business. Foreign banks operate a total of 25 representative offices.

A report from the Burma Foreign Investment Commission dated June 30, 1995, states that 20 Thai companies are operating in Burma. Six are wholly-owned and the rest are joint-venture companies. According to another report from Burma at the end of September 1995, there were 28 Thai-invested projects worth US$420.12 million. This makes Thai investors the fourth largest group in Burma, after the United Kingdom, Singapore and France respectively.

Thailand: Investors 'Worried' by Lao Economic Plan

BK1605053896 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 May 96 p 16

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thai investors in large projects in Laos may have their licences revoked under the Laotian Government's new economic plan.

Under that plan, the government plans to withdraw support for foreign-owned projects that it believes might be shaky.

As well, projects already endorsed might be revised to optimise Laotian interests, according to a recent report by the Thai Farmers Research Centre, a subsidiary of Thai Farmers Bank.

After last month's National Congress, Deputy Premier Boun-gnang Volachit was re-assigned to oversee investment activities in Laos.

Though foreign investors said Mar Boun-gnang is known for his high sense of duty, most said they were still worried that he might try to revise or drop already-approved projects and could re-open negotiations on projects under consideration.

Thai investors are currently the largest foreign investors in Laos.

Between 1988 and 1995 Laos approved 594 foreign-owned projects worth US$4,592 million. Of those, 228 projects worth US$1,975 million were from Thailand, 42.63 percent of total investment value in 1995.

Though Laos has announced that it is still welcoming foreign investment to spur national development, it plans to protect its interests better and make sure investments promote its goals, the report said.

The government recently began to eliminate foreign-owned investments that had not been begun long after the signing of memorandums of understanding. Now foreign investors are required to abide by investment agreements or face the prospect of licence revocation and new bids.

Thai projects that are under scrutiny for delayed implementation include: Somphot Piya-ui's resort and casino project; Sahawiriya's rail track construction project; Hemarat's industrial estate project; Economic Quadrangle Joint Development Co's highway project; and Shinawatra's telecommunication project.

To optimise Laotian interests, the government also plans to form more equity partnerships in foreign-owned projects and has begun revising the terms of the basic telephone line project submitted by Shinawatra Group.

Thailand: Premier Apologizes to People for Debate Turmoil

BK1605051396 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 May 96 p A1, A3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha told the people yesterday that he was "sorry" that the no-confidence debate was cut short before the opposition could censure him, and publicly acknowledged for the first time that the incident badly tainted his government's image.

Banhan also promised to reshuffle his Cabinet after the budget bill passes its first reading next week.

In an interview broadcast on television Channel 11 and radio stations of the Public Relations Department, Banhan said he had painstakingly lifted his administration's image through nine months of hard work.

"I worked hard for nine months and managed to climb up the ladder. Overnight I fell," he told interviewer Somkiat Onwimon. "But I will fight my way back."

On the abrupt end of the censure debate, Banhan said he did not want to escape grilling, but the opposition was using too much time with no end in sight.

"I'm sorry about what happened and take responsibility for it. I don't want to blame anybody now. All I want to say is I'm not a coward," he said.

In an earlier interview yesterday, the prime minister would not reveal how the reshuffle would be made, but it is expected he would comply with calls by the Phalang Tham [PDP] and New Aspiration [SAP] parties to remove two unpopular Cabinet members to improve the government's image.

The NAP and PDP have reportedly demanded that Deputy Interior Minister Suchat Tancharoen and Finance Minister Surakiat Sathianthai be removed because they failed to answer the opposition's charges during last week's no-confidence debate. The PDP also reportedly wants to oust Deputy Finance Minister Newin Chidchop.

Chat Thai MP Man Phatthanothai claimed Banhan had told people close to him that Suchat would be ousted, while Newin and Surakiat could be transferred to other posts.

Banhan said he could not change his Cabinet line-up now because the government had yet to pass several important bills, including the budget bill which is due to be deliberated next Friday.

"You can criticise me if I don't reshuffle my Cabinet after all those important tasks have been finished," Banhan said.

"On May 25, a day after the budget bill has been passed [in its first reading], I will be able to say how I will change my Cabinet line-up."

Asked if he would change the line-up or just reassign the unpopular Cabinet members to other posts, Banhan said: "I think I'll have to do it," without elaborating.

Commenting on a Cabinet reshuffle NAP leader and Deputy Prime Minister Chawalit Yongthaiyut said he had to listen to the voice of the people.

"This was the basis of our proposal to the prime minister," Chawalit said.

"We want to see things improved, but the final say will be by Banhan. The NAP has never demanded how the reshuffle should be made. We respect the prime minister's decision."

Chat Thai Secretary-General Sano Thianthong yesterday avoided commenting on reports that the NAP had demanded the removal of Suchat and Surakiat.

"The issue has to be discussed by senior members of the coalition," Sano said after being asked to confirm the reports.

Thailand: Banhan Vows To Reshuffle Cabinet After 25 May

BK1505143096 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1200 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Pledging to reshuffle his cabinet after 25 May, Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha said the new line-up will be transparent and free from pressure from anybody. However, the reshuffle cannot be made at this moment pending the completion of important undertakings.

Earlier this morning, dozens of Chat Thai Party's MP's went to have breakfast with the prime minister at his resident as normal. These MP's were reportedly there to give moral support to the prime minister.

Looking more at ease, the prime minister told his visitors that he will seek to handle matters for the government so that it can fulfill its four-year tenure, noting that the incidents in the House were only minor accidents.

Meanwhile, Sano Thianthong, secretary general of Chat Thai Party, told reporters that the Phalang Tham Party will continue with the coalition government and that the matter will be discussed against after the passage of the budget bill.

General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, leader of the New Aspiration Party, said that his party has never asked the prime minister to dispel any party from the coalition because they are all friends. The statement made earlier by Police Lieutenant Colonel Thaksin Chinnawat that his Phalang Tham Party will remain with the coalition government only with dignity should not be interpreted as an indication of any political change.

[Begin Chawalit recording] What Thaksin said is not an indication of any political change. Let the situation develop naturally. We are not the ones who control the direction. We must respect the prime minister. We are ready to give our frank advice. [End recording]

General Chawalit also stated that the armed forces in the present era will never stage a coup. However, some military personnel might feel fed up with politics, which is nothing unusual. The military is always ready to support the democratic form of administration.

General Chawalit said this during an interview after receiving commanders of the armed forces, who called on him to pay their respects for his 64th birthday anniversary at Phramongkutklao Hospital, where is wife, Khunying Phankhrua Yongchaiyut is receiving medical treatment. He told the military leaders that he is proud of the armed forces for their contribution to the development of the country and the democratic form of administration.

Thailand: Ministers View Prospective Cabinet Reshuffle

BK1605063496 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As leading members of the coalition parties in the government have confirmed that the prime minister will reshuffle the Cabinet after the deliberation of the draft fiscal 1997 budget bill by the House of Representatives, Deputy Prime Minister Air Chief Marshal Sombun Rahong said the prime minister must consider the issue carefully. He must take into account what could adversely affect both the parties in the coalition government and the opposition as well as public reaction.

Sano Thianthong, minister of Public Health and secretary general of the Chat Thai Party, said there has been no discussions so far on the reshuffle of censured cabinet ministers. Regarding this, consultations must be held among leading members of the coalition parties first.

Police Lieutenant Colonel Thaksin Chinnawat, deputy prime minister and leader of the Phalang Tham Party, reiterated that the party has acted in accordance with the desires of the people who elected them. In addition, he confirmed that all Phalang Tham Party members voted in support of Deputy Finance Minister Newin Chitchop in the recent no-confidence debate. [passage omitted]

Thailand: Problems Face Premier in Reshuffling Cabinet

BK1605064396 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 16 May 96 p A4

[Editorial: "A Cabinet Reshuffle or Else"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The general speculation is that after the no-confidence debate a Cabinet reshuffle is to take place. Those Cabinet members who are hot potatoes and, most especially, those who were viewed with distaste by the public could very likely be the first batch to go.

But a Cabinet reshuffle will not come easy because those who were appointed Cabinet members are powerful figures in their respective parties. To dismount them from their seats of power will not be an easy task.

More importantly, there is what is known as a quota system in the formation of a Cabinet. For each party joining the government, they are given a certain number of Cabinet seats depending on the number of MP's [Members of Parliament] the party has in the House of Representatives. Those nominated by the party to take Cabinet posts are important members of the party, usually those who held the party executive posts and who were the party's financiers. Thus, to demand a change of ministers without the consent of the party would be a difficult task unless it is the wish of the particular party itself.

The core party in the coalition government is faced with a similar problem. The party is divided into a number of factions, each of which is under a faction head. These heads are those who are the financiers of the party and, as leaders of the faction, they have a number of followers. The system works much the same way as the patron-client system of yester-year when Thailand was still under the traditional political and social system before the democratic revolution of June 24, 1932.

Even if there is a desire to "kick out" a certain member of the Cabinet, it sometimes becomes a herculean task because once the leader of the faction is hurt, the followers in large numbers also feel the pinch and they could not be expected to keep silent.

There is also the political IOU which has to be taken into account. The core party forming the government would not have mustered enough seats had it not been for certain faction leaders who were able, through personal charisma or financial power, to bring in a number of winners in the general election. With the numbers brought into the party, the party would win the most seats. For that contribution, the leader would be given a number of Cabinet posts. A present Cabinet member of the core party is said to have brought in seven winners, thus he is a person who cannot be counted out.

This is then a tricky situation. What if a member becomes unacceptable to the public? Can the premier drop him from the Cabinet line up after a reshuffle?

The answer is legally yes, but politically no. He could cause a lot of political trouble by his action or inaction. He and his political followers could do great political harm to the extent that the core party may even cease to enjoy majority seats if he allies with other factions in the party. This would deprive it from being the core party and hence lose the eligibility to form the government.

But the dilemma is that unless the new Cabinet shows some new faces who are more acceptable to citizens, the government will be held accountable to the public, especially in holding up the pledges the Prime Minister made during the election campaign that he would not disappoint the people. He could also anticipate dire consequences if he, through necessity and audacity, should come up with a reshuffle against the faction leader or leaders with political clout. The premier is in an unenviable position at the moment.

Could the no-confidence debate serve its ultimate purpose? The Opposition, which vehemently grilled a certain minister, has in essence given the premier a helping hand in his task of a Cabinet reshuffle. He could cite the poor performance of the members he wanted to sack as reason enough. But would that save him from political trouble? Only the premier could know.

Thailand: Party Official Defends PDP Decision Not To Quit

BK1605053696 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 May 96 p 2

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Phalang Tham Party [PDP] was responsible for what it did during the censure debate last week but it had to remain in the coalition for the sake of the people, party Secretary-General Sudarat Keyuraphan said yesterday.

Mrs Sudarat, also deputy interior minister, said her party had made it known to Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha that it was ready to pull out of the government.

"It was the premier who asked us to stay on for the sake of the general public as the House is going to consider the Budget Bill and constitutional amendments," she said.

In the meeting on Tuesday, PDP leader Thaksin Chinnawat was heavily attacked by certain members of the Chat Thai Party's Group 16 on PDP's decision not to vote in support of Deputy Interior Minister Suchat Tancharoen during the censure last week.

Mrs Sudarat said she understood how these people feel but insisted that it would be better for her party's popularity if it withdrew from the government now.

Meanwhile, Public Health Minister and Chat Thai Secretary-General Sano Thianthong denied that the PDP was grilled during Tuesday's meeting, saying both parties were only trying to make the issue clear.

He declined to comment about PDP's future in the coalition, saying only that the government still had several things to do.

However, Mr Sano said coalition leaders concluded that there would be a change in the Cabinet after Parliament deliberates the Budget Bill during May 22-23.

But he did not say who all would be affected by the change.

In a related development, Deputy Government Spokesman Phongthep Thepkanchana dismissed as groundless allegations that Phalang Tham wanted to stay on in the coalition as it wanted to protect its stake in the Metropolitan Rapid Transit Authority project.

The PDP and Mr Thaksin have handled the project with transparency, said Mr Phongthep, adding that bidding for the project last week was witnessed by the media.

Thailand: Arrested Nam Thai Party Member Resigns From Post

BK1605014096 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the latest news report at 1845, Major General Sonchai Montriwat, deputy minister of the interior and secretary general of the Nam Thai Party, reported on the arrest of Mr. Thawi Phutthachan, member of the Nam Thai Party, a former MP of Chiang Rai Province, and adviser to the deputy interior minister, by the General Police Department on the charge of being involved in the assassination of Mr. Sengchai Sunthonwat, former director of the Mass Communications Organization of Thailand. He said in order to allow the justice service to freely perform its duty in the legal proceedings, Mr. Thawi Phutthachan has, therefore, resigned as member of the Nam Thai Party and as adviser to the deputy interior minister. The secretary general of the Nam Thai Party added that the party will not resort to any action in an effort to defend the accused.

Thailand: Committee Set Up for Judges Retirement Bill

BK1605051096 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The meeting of the House of Representatives at the Parliament yesterday approved a draft pension bill for government officials in connection with the extension of retirement age for judges from 60 to 65 years. The meeting agreed to set up a special commission to review the draft bill within 15 days.

Apart from this, the meeting also approved the draft bill on a pension fund for government officials and a draft bill to fix the duration for which official information and news is not to be publicized. All the draft bills approved by the House of Representatives yesterday will be sent to the Senate for further deliberation.

After the meeting, House Speaker Bun-ua Prasoetsuwan praised the performance of duties by all the members of the House of Representatives for their cooperation in smoothly deliberating the various draft bills. [passage omitted on recorded remark by Bun-ua]

Commenting on the setting up of a special comission to review the draft pension bill, Justice Minister Police Captain Chaloem Yubamrung said the aim is to ensure care and correctness of the issue. The question whether the new law will be enforced in time for judges due for retirement this year will depend on the House deliberation. [passage omitted on recorded remark by Chaloem]

Thailand: House Commission Opposes Satellite Project

BK1605014296 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1200 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The House Commission for Military Affairs has voiced its disagreement over the Defense Ministry having its own satellite for national security purpose.

Suphat Thammaphet, spokesman of the House Commission for Military Affairs, disclosed that the commission had invited representatives from communications-related agencies to express their opinions on the Defense Ministry's satellite project. It was agreed that a satellite is necessary for the Defense Ministry. However, they do not believe that the Defense Ministry should have its own satellite. Other state agencies should be allowed to do this job.

The commission will invite Defense Minister General Chawalit to explain the project next Wednesday.

[Begin Suphat recording] After listening to the opinions of other state agencies, it can be concluded that at present it is not yet necessary for it [Defense Ministry] to have its own satellite for national security purposes. [end recording]

Thailand: Satellite Cost Queried by House Committee

BK1605045096 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 16 May 96 p A3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The House Committee on Military Affairs yesterday disclosed its preliminary findings on a military satellite project by questioning its financial viability and expressing disagreement over the project being under the control of the Defence Ministry.

Suphat Thammaphet (Democrat-Phatthalung) said the committee convened a hearing on the Defence Ministry's plan to launch its own satellites for military purposes.

Answering a committee question on the possibility of having a state-owned satellite, Sethaphon Phusiphitak, deputy director general of the Post and Telegraph Department, testified that the budgetary constraint and a personnel shortage were key factors hampering the possibility of having a multi-agency satellite communications system.

Suphat said the question was raised to examine the viability of allowing the Communications Ministry to be in charge of a satellite project which could then be jointly used by other agencies, including the armed forces.

The House committee spokesman also quoted Sethaphon as speculating that a single-agency-run satellite may not be worth the investment.

The spokesman said, pending the defense minister's additional explanation, the committee tentatively disagreed with the idea of launching a satellite for the sole purpose of military communications.

Thailand: Deputy Premier: Reform Vital for Economic Goal

BK1605040596 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 May 96 p 15

[Report by Chatrudi Thepharat and Wichit Sirithawiphon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Political reform is vital if the Thai economy is to be worth 21 trillion baht by 2020, according to Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan.

The public and private sectors agreed, he told the Thailand Vision 2020 seminar at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre in Bangkok yesterday.

The Thailand Development and Research Institute predicts the target can be achieved providing the economy is liberalized and Thais have equal access to the windfall resulting from growth.

Thailand's per capita would reach US$12,000, or 300,000 baht, by 2020, according to the institute. But if the figures were based on buying power parity — a comparison of wealth of different nations on the same basis — the average Thai income would be 600,000 baht.

The per capita income would be higher than Korea's, if North and South Korea combined. It would also be higher than the level in China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, but remain behind that of Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia and Singapore.

Thailand would be a front runner in East Asia, Dr Amnuai said. Its population would increase from the current 60 million to 70.5 million.

The average education of Thais aged 25 or more would increase to 9.5 years compared with 3.8 years in 1990.

To achieve that level, a leading position in the region, it was vital that education reforms be carried out, Dr Amnuai said. Without reforms, the average education period would be 7.6 years in 2020, on par with the average of other countries in the area.

Poverty would decrease to 1.5 million people or 2.5 percent of the population, compared with 7.85 million or 14 percent in 1992.

Thailand should develop its competitive edge in terms of personnel, he said. They should be capable of handling political and economic crises.

Political reform was the main vehicle to achieve the country's goals, Dr Amnuai said. This would be endorsed by the government which, tomorrow, would propose a draft amendment to the charter that currently gives MP's exclusive rights to propose constitutional amendments.

The amendment proposal empowers 67 knowledgeable 4 nominees from various professions to suggest constitutional amendments. Politics could then evolve in step with social and economic development, he said.

Wirat Watthanasiritham, National Economic and Social Development Board deputy secretary-general, said he agreed with political reform, particularly of political parties which ought to work in a more systematic way similar to private business. He wanted parties to make their ideologies clear.

Federation of Thai Industries chairman Chokchai Aksaranan said education came first. Once education had been reformed other developments would follow.

Siam Steel Group vice-president Anantachai Khunanantakun said the private sector should contribute more to the society. It should be more responsible for environment and education, but currently protected only its own interests.

Vietnam

SRV: Ties, Cooperation With Australia Reviewed

BK1505040096 Hanoi VNA in English 1440 GMT 14 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA May 14 — Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam has given an interview to Vietnam News Agency on the comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and Australia on the occasion of a change of the Australian Government. Following are questions and answers :

Question : Mr Minister, would you outline the relationship of friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Australia at present as well as prospects for this relationship in the context of a change of government in Australia?

Answer : Over the last few years, the relations between Vietnam and Australia have been fast developing in various fields. The two sides have exchanged of a number of high-level visits including Vietnam prime minister's visit to Australia in May 1993, Party General Secretary Do Muoi's visit to Australia in August 1995, Australian prime minister's visit to Vietnam in April 1994 and Australian governor-general's visit to Vietnam in April 1995. Many cooperation agreements between the two countries have been signed. Meanwhile, mechanisms for cooperation between the two countries have also been established with a view to steadily promoting the development of our economic, commercial, investment, scientific and technological relations.

By May 1996, Australia counts 53 investment projects in Vietnam with combined capital of USD 800 million. Many projects have gone into operation and are run with efficiency, making a practical contribution to the socio-economic development of Vietnam while bringing about no small profit to Australian businesses. Two-way trade turnover is growing day by day. Australian development aid to Vietnam is being efficiently implemented in many areas.

This relationship is of mutual benefit and actively contributing to the promotion of the trend of cooperation for development in the Asia-Pacific that both Vietnam and Australia are working for.

After the coalition government of the Liberal Party and the National Party took power, Prime Minister John Howard sent Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet a letter confirming the consolidation of the growing friendship between the two countries. Soon Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade Tim Fischer will visit Vietnam to discuss measures to further promote the friendship and cooperation between the two countries. At the same time, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer has already accepted my invitation for a visit to Vietnam. He has also extended an invitation to me to visit Australia in the near future.

Thus, we have grounds to be confident that the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Australia will continue to grow and expand for the benefit of the people of each country and for peace, stability, cooperation and development in the region.

Question : Could you please give some evaluation on the effectiveness of Australian aid projects in Vietnam, especially the significance of the My Thuan bridge project to socio-economic development in the Mekong Delta ?

Answer : For the 1994-1997 fiscal years, the Government of Australia has committed to grant Vietnam AUD 200 million in developing aid. This amount of development aid has been channelled into education and training, health-care and infrastructure programmes. Many of which have proved highly effective. In particular, the

My Thuan bridge construction project is of great economic and social relevance. The My Thuan bridge will be the first major bridge in the Mekong Delta, contributing to the improvement of transportation in an area inhabited by nearly 15 million people. It will help develop the economy, cultural and social life as well as raise the living standard of the people in the Mekong Delta — an important economic region of our country. Environmentally speaking, construction of this bridge to replace existing ferries will hopefully help circumscribe pollution. On the other hand, the My Thuan bridge project has a close connection with the project on the development of the Mekong Delta, a project agreed upon at the fifth ASEAN summit and the first ASEM [Asia-Europe Meeting] summit.

To carry out the My Thuan bridge project, in July 1995, the governments of the two countries signed a statement of in-principles cooperation. In November 1995, the two sides signed the MOU [memorandum of understanding] relating to the My Thuan bridge project detailed design phase. At present, the project is under the phase of detailed design undertaken by Australian consultants.

Given the socio-economic importance of the project, we hope that the Government of Australia will continue their assistance so that the project could enter the construction phase soon. Once completed, the My Thuan bridge will stand out as a symbol of the Vietnam-Australia friendship and cooperation.

Question : The government of Prime Minister John Howard is committed to continued policy of giving priority to the Australian relations with the Asian Pacific region in general, and Southeast Asia in particular. In your view Mr Minister, how can Australia contribute to the trend of peace, cooperation and prosperous development in this region.

Answer : Vietnam welcomes the policy pursued by the government of Prime Minister John Howard to continue giving due priority to her relations with Asia and the Pacific. The recent visit made by the minister for foreign affairs, Mr. Alexander Downer to some of Southeast Asian countries right after his appointment is a persuasive indication of the Australian Government's interest in this important region.

The close and effective cooperation between Australia and regional countries, especially with regard to economics trade, science and technology will actively contribute to the consolidation of peace, stability and development in the region and serve the interest of Australia as well as every country in the region.

Question : Many countries in the world including Australia are very much interested in participating in the process of cooperation between Asia and Europe and in the activities following the first Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). Would you, please, give us your opinion on the possibility of expanding ASEM membership to other countries?

Answer : The success of the first ASEM summit in Bangkok (Thailand) in March 1996 marked a historic milestone and opened up a new phase of cooperation between two very important continents of the world in terms of potentials as well as development prospects. ASEM is an open process. Therefore the fact that some of the countries that have not yet participated in the first meeting, among them Australia, a country with a high level of development, with vast economic, technological, scientific and technical potentials and which is effectivly cooperating with countries in the region, and that should wish to take part in the process is understandable. Vietnam symphathizes with this legitimate desire. The active and constructive participation of these countries will contribute to enhanced mutual understanding and the promotion of friendship and cooperation between Asia-Pacific and Europe as well as across the world. The question of new membership of ASEM will be settled by consensus among ASEM members.

Question : Mr. Minister, would you please comment on the possibility of Australia's participation in the Mekong basin development project and that of the trans-Asian railway network?

Answer : At the fifth ASEAN and the first ASEM summits, there ideas of cooperation for the development of the Mekong basin and the construction of a trans-Asia transportation network among them the idea of a trans-Asian importance for the development of the region, which should bring about prosperity for all countries concerned and creat favourable conditions for enhanced economic, cultural and social exchanges among countries in the region and between asia and europe. [sentence as received] These projects require major amounts of investment not for their success, cooperation participation by many countries in terms of capital, technology and manpower are needed. [sentence as received]

It is my opinion that, being a country with a high level of development with major economic, scientific and technical potentials and with increasingly expanding relations with all countries in the Mekong basin, Australia can actively contribute to the realization of these projects.

SRV: Truong Tan Sang Replaces Vo Tran Chi as HCMC Party Chief

BK1605074296 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 15 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The sixth executive committee of the Ho Chi Minh City [HCMC] Party Organization held its first conference to discuss in a democratic way the personnel structure of the city party committee standing committee and the city party inspection committee. With a unanimous vote, the conference elected the city party standing committee as well as the secretary and deputy secretaries of the city party committee. It also elected the inspection committee as well as the chief and deputy chiefs of the city party inspection committee by secret ballot.

The election results show that the sixth executive committee of the Ho Chi Minh City Party Organization's new standing committee comprises 13 comrades with comrade Truong Tan Sang, member of the party Central Committee and incumbent chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee, as secretary of the city party committee.

SRV: Former Hanoi Party Chief Speaks at Congress

BK1605012996 Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 8 May 96 pp 1, 4

[Opening speech by Pham The Duyet, then Hanoi City Party Committee secretary, at the Hanoi City 12th Party Organization Congress on 7 May in Hanoi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi; Comrade advisers to the Party Central Committee [PCC]; party and state leaders; distinguished guests; and congress delegates: In implementing Directive No. 51 of the PCC Secretariat, for the last several months party organizations at grassroots as well as other levels in the city have completed their congresses, fulfilling successfully all the requirements of the PCC.

Present here today are 398 outstanding delegates elected by all the party organizations at grassroots and other levels under the city party organization. On behalf of the congress presidium and city party committee of the 11th office term, I heartily welcome all the delegates to this congress.

The congress heartily welcomes Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi, who has always been concerned about the development of the city and the party organizations' congresses at various levels during the past several months, and is present here with us in our congress.

The congress heartily welcomes the comrade advisers to the PCC Pham Van Dong and Vo Chi Cong.

The congress heartily welcomes the leaders from the party, state, ministries, sectors, departments, and mass organizations at the central level.

The congress heartily welcomes the comrades who were former city leaders of various generations, the leaders of the seven precincts and districts, and the comrades who left in 1991 to work for the provinces of Ha Tay and Vinh Phu, who are also present here today.

The congress welcomes and thanks the comrade leaders and correspondents from newspapers, radio and television stations, both at central and Hanoi levels, who have given constant support to and carried reports on the city's party congresses, and who have also come today for our congress.

The presence of the comrade leaders of the party, state, and other honorable guests is a great encouragement for the congress. On behalf of all delegates I would like to express our most sincere gratitude for your concern regarding the party congress of the capital city party organization.

Dear comrades, during the past five years, our city has had to deal with many difficulties and challenges, especially during the shift from the old economic mechanism to the market-oriented mechanism under the state's regulation. With a renewed determination, the party organization and the people of the city have achieved encouraging results. The city economy has surpassed the recession period and obtained rapid and steady growth rate; the multisectorial merchandise economy has been developed; and the state economic sector has maintained a firm grip on its leadership role.

Political security and social order have been firmly safeguarded and constantly improved. The political system has been consolidated. And the people's confidence in the renovation undertaking under the leadership of the party has been continually increasing.

Social and cultural activities are demonstrating steady progress, and the care for the livelihood of people entitled to receive social welfare benefits is improving significantly.

In parallel with the achievements, many weaknesses still remain. Many latent resources of the city have not been exploited adequately. The development of socialism-oriented production relations is still sluggish. The management competence of local administrations at all levels is still unsatisfactory. The leadership role of many party committees and activity of local mass organizations is still limited.

The review of the renovation period during the 1991-95 office term of the capital party organization, a task that we will undertake in this congress, will help us to extract worthwhile experiences and lessons.

Proper evaluation of the work achieved in the past five years and the projection of future development trends will allow us to work out major duties and objectives for the 1996-2000 period, the period of implementation of industrialization and modernization.

Dear Comrades, the documents drafted by the Hanoi party organization's 11th Executive Committee to be submitted to this congress reflect the genuine prowess of the party organization and the people of the capital. Thanks to the important guiding ideas of the comrade general secretary, the Political Bureau, and the prime minister as well as valuable and responsible contributions from departments and agencies at the central level, veteran revolutionary cadres, scientists, intellectuals, the armed forces, and people from all strata in Hanoi, the draft documents are a truthful and comprehensive evaluation of the situation. The 12th party congress has the duty to analyze and evaluate the implementation of the 11th party congress resolution and other resolutions of the seventh party Central Committee presented in the draft documents. On the basis of this evaluation, our party congress will determine goals, duties, and measures to carry them out for the 1996-2000 period and later years.

Also in this congress, we will demonstrate the responsibility of the capital party organization on the basis of the realities of Hanoi to discuss and contribute practically to the documents to be submitted to the eighth national party congress.

With the high demands on the congress, we need to exert our highest efforts to elect to the new party Executive Committee cadres and party members who possess staunch political acumen, high standards of morality and talent with morality as the main criterion, a resolute attitude against corruption and negativity, and a high sense of responsibility to the people and the city party organization. We should strive to elect to the party committee more cadres who are young, female, and from among the workers. We will also elect exemplary cadres with appropriate competence in contributing opinions to join the delegation to attend the party congress at the central level.

Dear Comrades, for the last several months people from all strata in our city have enthusiastically participated in emulative campaigns and used their achievements to greet the party congress. Cadres, party members, and the people of the capital city have placed their trust in the success of this congress, considering this congress their own affair. The responsibility of each delegate is therefore heavy. I hope each delegate will strive to develop their energy and sense of responsibility to the utmost to work in a democratic spirit for the success of the congress.

The capital city should lead in the renovation undertaking, implement successfully the industrialization and modernization process, and be worthy as "political, cultural, scientific, technological, economic, and international relations center" of our country. Our congress will definitely respond positively to the trust and expectations of the party organization and the people of Hanoi as well as the whole country.

In that spirit, and on behalf of the congress presidium, I have the honor to declare open the congress of the Hanoi party organization's 12th Executive Committee.

I wish all the comrade leaders and delegates good health. I wish our congress great success. Thank you, comrades.

SRV: Conclusions Drawn at Army-Building Work Conference

962E0040A Hanoi TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN in Vietnamese Jan 96 pp 1-6

[Summary of speech by Senior Lieutenant General Dao Dinh Luyen: "Movements To Build Totally Strong Units, To Renovate Education and Training, To Build the Regular Army—Results, Experience, and Guidelines for Immediate Future"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *Editor's note: The Ministry of National Defense has recently held an all-army conference to review the movements in the last six years to build totally strong (TS) regiments, in the last three years to build TS brigades and divisions, in the last five years to renovate the education and training of soldiers, and in the last two years to build the regular army. At the conference, Senior Lieutenant General Dao Dinh Luyen, member of the Central Command, vice minister of national defense, and chief of the General Staff, presided over the meeting and drew up its conclusions. We bring you a summary of his speech which contained these important conclusions.*

I - Evaluation of Results

A - Building totally strong units.

All units in the army thoroughly understood and seriously implemented the ministry's directive on building totally strong (TS) units. The model units were deployed back in 1989; later the remaining units followed them one after another. When the units began their building work, their situation was very different from one another's. But generally speaking, all of them were able to create clear-cut changes and progress; many advanced models appeared; many units fulfilled all five requirements set by the ministry for building TS units; many new units achieved progress in a number of aspects; and some new units have just recently obtained changes and made progress. The results obtained affirmed that the position on building TS units has been very correct. This position serves as the basis for the army as a whole to fulfill the task of building the army in depth and with increasing quality, and to satisfy the needs of this task in the new situation. Along with the progress made by all units, we have also noted the growth of the leadership, command, and organs at all levels, and the progress made in regard to the sense of responsibility; the abilities to lead and to organize the command, management, and training of soldiers; the work order and behavior; and the capabilities to organize fulfillment of the units-building task.

As we review the realities in connection with six years of building TS regiments and three years of building TS brigades and divisions, we can mention some major results as follows:

One, the party committee echelons and commands at all levels were taking care of the education of cadres and combatants to make them correctly aware of the situation and tasks of the revolution, army, and units; politically sound and capable, confident in the renovation, and vigilant in the face of the adversary forces' sabotage schemes; and reassured and encouraged so as to properly fulfill the tasks assigned to them and to remain close to their units and the army. The sense of responsibility of cadres and combatants was heightened; discipline was strengthened; the rate of violating discipline, particularly in the cases involving desertion, militaristic tendencies, and disciplinary action in mass-agitation work, was decreased considerably. Internal and army-people solidarity was strengthened. The party organizations ceaselessly improved, strengthened, and developed themselves, with their leadership ability being heightened and with the role of leadership over units being greatly reinforced, as they became the real nuclei of solidarity and unification, and the core of the task of building TS units. The units thoroughly understood and were clearly aware of the mass-agitation work in the new situation and, along with local party committee echelons, administrations, and people, were able to build a political and security base that had good effects on speeding up the local movement, reducing violations of the mass-agitation discipline, and restoring the people's confidence in and affection for the army.

Two, the units seriously carried out the training programs and procedures, as well as the combat-readiness principles, while raising their technical and tactical capabilities. They made some progress in resolving the shortage of basic-level cadres. There was an obvious improvement in the quality of cadres, who mostly were able to affirm their responsibilities, to feel reassured and encouraged in their studies and work, and to make progress in regard to raising their ability to organize, command, and manage the training of soldiers. According to an evaluation by the units themselves, over 90 percent of cadres fulfilled their responsibilities as assigned, with 60-70 percent of them having fulfilled them in an outstanding manner. This was a very great effort and an encouraging progress because the task of raising the capabilities and level of cadres was a necessity of strategic significance. Furthermore, between now and the year 2000, as the ranks of cadres will be greatly changed, we must have plans for continuing their advanced training so as to avoid any shortage and to have a constant source of supply of cadres.

Three, the soldiers' standard of living was stable and gradually improved. In spite of the many difficulties that they still encountered in housing, all units made many efforts to fight roof leaks, heat, and collapse in order to create favorable conditions for their soldiers to stabilize their housing situation and to achieve uniform and regular living conditions. They ensured for their soldiers better uniforms in terms of design, colors, and quality. They properly carried out the movement for "Better Management and Use of Weapons and Technical Equipment, Which Must Be Good, Durable, Safe, and Economical." All technical procedures were carried out in a serious and strict manner; the network of storehouses, stations, and workshops was strengthened. Basically speaking, they ensured the availability of weapons and equipment to satisfy the task of training and combat readiness.

However, compared to the need for building TS units, the changes and progress that were made remained slow and irregular and were far from total and steady; the number of units that satisfied the TS-unit criteria was still small. The knowledge of cadres and combatants in regard to the enemy's schemes and tricks against the Vietnamese revolution was insufficient; as they failed to see all the complicated events in the new situation, they still showed signs of being subjective and careless and a lack of vigilance. There remained the phenomenon of neglecting the need for carrying out combat-readiness procedures. The quality of leadership and the pioneering and combative spirit of a number of basic-level party organizations remained poor. A segment of our cadre and party member population was far from truly exemplary. A number of units did not organize the education and management of their soldiers very tightly. Violations of discipline did not go down to the lowest level, nor were the more serious cases put to an end. Compared to the need for defending the fatherland under the new conditions, the level and ability of soldiers to be combat ready under any circumstances remained low.

B - Renovation of education and training of soldiers in the past five years (1991-1995).

On the basis of a complete evaluation of the training of soldiers in the 1980's, since 1989 we have resolutely been renovating the concept, guidelines, contents, organization, and methods of educating and training our soldiers.

The most obvious result was that the leaders and commanders at all levels of our organs, units, and schools have positively changed their concept and now consider education and training as a a peacetime regular central task. Since the party committee echelons and commanders at all levels have been assuming tight leadership and guidance over the educational and training task, the quality of training of cadres and detachments has obviously been improved.

The guidelines for training of soldiers were correct: Training should be close to combat realities, as well as the task and operational location of each force; training should render soldiers totally capable of fighting with the weapons we had in our possession, and on that basis capable of fighting when they were reinforced with men and means. We resolutely carried out the training principle of being "basic, realistic, and steady," and attached importance to basic training, which would help to build strong capabilities for cadres and combatants. The reason was that only when the basic training was very good, could we maintain a good coordination of forces in formation. Although the training was basic, it was realistic and covered all that was necessary for combat — training was modeled after how soldiers would fight. Although the training was basic and realistic, it was steady, as it was carried out from a low to a high level, from a simple to a complicated situation.

The contents of education and training of soldiers were also basically renovated in conformity with the object of combat, organization, staff, equipment, and Vietnamese military art. In the course of renovating the contents of education and training, we inherited and further developed the army's experiences and glorious traditions, and at the same time studied the absorption and selective and creative application of the new achievements in military science and art, military science and technology, and the social sciences and humanities having to do with military matters.

To renovate the guidelines, principles and contents had to be closely linked with a renovation of the organization and methods of training. That was a factor of decisive significance for raising the quality of training. The army in general and the training organs in particular made many efforts to properly draft and implement organizational plans and educational and training methods for each and every curricular subject, and thoroughly understood and correctly and creatively applied three viewpoints and six connecting points to education and training. In the training process, they were able to develop democracy and every individual's own dynamic activity and to arouse the active nature and self-understanding of trainees so as to raise the quality of training.

However, there remained some weaknesses that had to be overcome: The viewpoints used as guidelines for the organization and methods of training were not yet smoothly understood and applied, for there remained signs of their being carried out mechanically and in the same pattern; the basic training was far from skillfully carried out; in spite of some progress, the preparations of the material base for training were lagging behind and were of poor quality; the network of shooting ranges, stadiums, training grounds, and training tools was insufficient and rudimentary.

C - Building of the regular army.

Facing the urgent need for building the regular army, the Standing Committee of the Military Commission of the CPV Central Committee issued Directive No. 37 to clearly define the contents and need for building the regular army and later the General Staff issued Directive No. 85 to set the objectives and measures for carrying out the task. In the last two years, the army as a whole was seriously implementing the two directives and obtained some important initial results. There were obvious changes and progress in regard to military uniforms, ceremonial activities, behavior, work based on responsibilities, and implementation of established procedures; violations of discipline were reduced considerably. The results obtained in building the regular army contributed to raising the effectiveness of carrying out the movements and strengthening the people's confidence, affection, and admiration toward the army. The realities and the results obtained affirmed that the position of the Military Commission of the CPV Central Committee on stepping up the building of the regular army was correct, responded in a timely manner to the aspirations of the army as a whole, and was in conformity with the need for building a revolutionary, regular, elite, and modern army.

We must recognize the fact that the progress we have made is only an initial step and that if we compare the results we have obtained to the objectives and need that have been set, we will find that the results still are poor. The implementation of the regular-army mechanisms has not yet become a habit or a high degree of self-understanding. Our cadres have not yet properly fulfilled their responsibilities, nor have they overcome the tendencies to act freely and at their convenience. The implementation of the regulations on uniforms and ceremonial activities, mostly in the cases of military personnel assigned specific work and units serving in inland and remote areas, is far from strict.

II - Some Experiences

All organs, units, institutes, and schools have completed a serious and careful review and drawn many experiences from the work of each and every unit in regard to carrying out the movements to build TS units, to renovate the education and training of soldiers, and to build the regular army. Let me summarize and further clarify a number of experience-based lessons.

In order to properly carry out the movements, cadres and combatants in the entire army must first thoroughly understand the two strategic tasks, have the right concept, and be absolutely confident in the party line on renovation in general and renovation of military and national defense matters in particular. That is the basis for a thorough understanding and affirmation of the political tasks of the army, units, and each and every cadre and combatant.

We must assert that the task of *building TS units* is an objective and necessary requirement which affects all the activities of a unit. The objectives, needs, and tasks having to do with building TS units must be studied, revised, and further developed in order to ceaselessly improve the overall quality of the unit as it fulfills the needs of its new task. We must link the movement to build TS units with the movements to build clean and strong party organizations, to build the regular army, to build a new cultural environment, and so on. The task of building TS units must be placed under the leadership of party committee echelons, commanders directly in charge of executing and developing the role of mass organizations, and specialized organs serving as staff, with emphasis on the spirit of self-sufficiency on the part of all units and with timely and effective assistance from superior levels.

In building TS units, we must fully adhere to and tightly combine these factors: Political building is the base; party building is the key; building of cadres is central; education and training is the regular central task; building the regular army is to be stepped up; the soldiers' material and spiritual living is taken care of; the availability of weapons and equipment is ensured; and internal and army-people solidarity is properly promoted.

The building of TS units must be carried out by the book. First of all, we must survey and correctly evaluate the real situation of a unit, clearly recognize its strengths and weaknesses and the reasons behind them, and analyze the characteristics of this situation. On this basis, we compare it to the needs for building TS units, study and recommend positions, select the urgent objectives by concentrating on clear-cut solutions, and create a momentum for the movement to move forward. We must achieve democracy in drafting positive plans and programs of action, popularize them, and promote their understanding in order to turn them into a determination to act on the part of all detachments and individuals. We must assume leadership over building specific points (units or various aspects of work) in order to gain experience and to make this experience spread. We must draft rules for cadres and party members and standardize their responsibilities. We must draft control procedures for commanders and organs to apply to units. We must actively guard against and take proper measures to prevent small shortcomings from becoming serious ones. Brief rounds of emulation must be launched to serve as a moving force to ceaselessly drive the movement forward. An extremely important thing is to ensure that the unit's activities take place in an orderly fashion and in accordance with strict rules and gain more depth everyday.

In order to create favorable conditions for building TS units, the superior echelons must make arrangement, within their powers and abilities, to stabilize organization and staff, to stabilize the location assigned for stationing, and to provide assistance in a realistic manner.

To renovate the education and training of soldiers is a peacetime regular central task and a long, continuous process; we are, therefore, required to ceaselessly look for ways to steadily revise and further improve this task. We must totally renovate the contents, curricula, organization, and methods of training in accordance with the principles that have been set. We must thoroughly understand and correctly and creatively apply the three viewpoints and six connecting points to our leadership over training. We must develop the self-understanding, dynamic, and creative qualities of all individuals, detachments, and units, and avoid imposing in training and making training less democratic and too conservative and dogmatic. We must consider the training of cadres a central work, particularly for basic-level cadres, and provide cadres on a regular basis with good-quality advanced training prior to any new stage and each training subject. We must properly manage and train new soldiers right at the time they are inducted into the army. In peacetime, we must carry out the education and training of soldiers in the hardest way and under the most difficult conditions, link it with combat readiness and the task of building the regular army, keep it close to the assigned task and operational location, and carry it out with the weapons we actually have and in accordance with our fighting method. We must attach utmost importance to basic training in collective action, techniques, and tactics. We must strengthen exercises and demonstrations under command and staff supervision, using maps and actual soldiers.

About building the regular army, we must affirm that this is both a need and a major measure serving as the basis for raising the overall quality and fighting power of our soldiers. The task of building the regular army must be placed under the joint leadership of party committee echelons and commanders at all levels. The plan of each unit for building the regular army must be drafted in a basic manner and contain realistic positions and measures. From the yearly (long-term) plan, a unit must draft plans for quarters, months, and weeks, and closely check the implementation of such plans. Situation reports must be accurate; cadres and party members must set examples and show self-understanding; efforts must be made to correct wrongdoings whenever they occur and to avoid acting freely, acting at one's convenience, being disorderly, and guerrilla-like behavior, as well as to persist in turning training materials into soldiers' habits; and resistance must be rallied against leftist tendencies, laxity, all signs of militarism, sole use of administrative orders, and failure to combine training with education based on persuasion and example setting. We must perfect at an early date a system of regulations, rules, responsibilities, and established procedures in order to achieve unification in the army as a whole.

III - Guidelines and Measures

A - Guidelines.

In the time to come, the army as a whole must thoroughly understand and organize good implementation of the resolutions of the 8th Party Congress, the resolution of the Military Commission of the CPV Central Committee, and the directive of the National Defense Ministry on the tasks in 1996; further develop the results that have been obtained; overcome shortcomings; and continue to push the movement forward to gain more depth, higher quality, and total and steady effectiveness.

1. Regiments, brigades, and divisions must continue to build TS units in conformity to Directives 116 and 05 of the General Staff. The building of TS units must be closely combined with other movements in order to create a collective force aimed at raising the quality of this building task. The movement to build TS units must be widened to include local soldiers, militia, and self-defense forces, institutes, schools, workshops, and stations (the ministry will issue guidelines for this). The units which have attained the TS unit criteria should not be subjective and stop their good work, but instead must consolidate and further develop it in order to raise the quality of building themselves in a more total and steady manner. The units which have just made progress and changes in some aspects, or have progressed only recently, must draft plans for trying harder to provide better training. We must strive to get by the year 2000 100 percent of our regiments, brigades, and divisions having all attained the TS unit criteria.

2. On the basis of the experience in renovating education and training that has been reviewed, between now and the year 2000, the army as a whole must continue to train our soldiers in conformity to the "basic, realistic, and steady" formula and to make training come close to combat realities and the needs of the task and operational location of each force, and be in conformity with organization and staff, as well as the Vietnamese military art. Importance must be attached to renovating the organization and methods of training, renovating various safety aspects, and gradually applying science and technology in order to raise further the quality of education and training.

3. To bring the building of the regular army to a new height, and to create total and steady changes in accordance with these four factors: unifying the aspects having to do with uniforms; building ceremonial activities and serious behavior of military personnel; raising the level of organizing the fulfillment of assigned responsibilities and established procedures; and raising the level of managing soldiers, weapons, and equipment.

B - Measures for organizing implementation.

1. To continue to provide leadership over building a number of model TS units (to score overall and single performance points) serving as a breakthrough for gaining experience to help to reinforce our overall leadership.

2. The organs in charge must organize close coordination of work, with the training organs serving as the center, and regularly assess their acting as the staff of party committee echelons and unit commanders in order to provide units with timely leadership and assistance. Outstanding and experienced cadres must be-assigned to help the weaker units. Emulation movements must be regularly launched to promote completion of work and

to create an atmosphere of people feeling encouraged to work for changes in the quality of building TS units.

3. To reinforce and to raise the quality of our cadres. Military regions, army corps, branches of service, arms, and organs of the ministry must have plans for elementary and advanced training, placement, and appointment so as to provide units with enough staff cadres, mostly basic-level cadres and leading cadres at regimental, brigade, and divisional levels; to ensure their availability; and to avoid sudden changes and shortages, which can affect the quality of unit building.

4. To raise the quality of training and building the regular army, to satisfy the army's requirement for high-degree combat readiness; to continue to renovate the contents, organization, and methods of education and training; to adhere to and properly apply the three viewpoints, eight principles, and six connecting points to education and training; to train soldiers to make them fully familiar with basic action and close coordination of action in formation with higher levels; to regularly train them in ceremonial activities and behavior of military personnel and to make them strive to work according to their responsibilities and scientific plans; to combine training with education and various safety aspects so as to reduce the number of violations of discipline and to limit to a minimum the number of deserters; to properly do the work of ensuring the training task; ensuring budgetary spending and consumption of gas and oil to suit the annual training and combat readiness tasks; assuming leadership over collective use of stadiums, training grounds, and training models and materials; and combining this use with the ability of soldiers to improve the quality of these means so as to ensure the high quality of training.

5. To properly ensure soldiers' standard of living. In the years to come, although the country's economy will be growing favorably, the national defense budget will remain limited; therefore, cadres, combatants, and rear-area army personnel families will still encounter difficulties in their everyday life. The ministry will draft plans for gradual investment in order to ensure the standard of living of soldiers. On the other hand, all units must make their own efforts, along with the ministry's, in order to stabilize and somehow improve the living conditions of their soldiers. Let us strive between now and the year 2000 to provide soldiers with enough grade-4 housing, with ensurance against roof leaks, heat, and collapse; sufficient facilities for their daily activities like dining halls, auditoriums, command posts, and Ho Chi Minh rooms; and the means to have regular and unified activities and studies. To actively increase production by growing things around barracks in order to improve the standard of living of soldiers. To study ways to improve the quality of uniforms in order to ensure that soldiers wear attractive, warm, durable garments, which must be of the right size and similar appearance.

Australia

Australia: Minister Outlines Approach to Trade Policy

BK1505144396 (Internet) Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade WWW in English 9 May 96

[Speech by Tim Fischer, Australian deputy prime minister and minister for trade, to the 1996 Politics and Public Policy Review at the Australasian Center for Corporate Public Affairs in Canberra on 9 May: "Trade Policy: Opening Opportunities With Business"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **Introduction**

It is a great pleasure to talk to members of the Australasian Centre for Corporate Public Affairs so soon after taking over the Trade portfolio.

I say that for three reasons:

— One, you are an important channel into the business community.

— Two, the Government wants to get moving as early as possible to lift the quality of dialogue with business.

— Because — and this is the third reason — Australia's prosperity demands that government and business work closely together. Government can create opportunities through the right policy framework — it is business which seizes those opportunities by developing the products, winning the contracts and targeting the investments.

The Government's Approach to Trade Policy

The fundamental objectives of trade policy are straightforward: to expand market access for Australian business, and to promote Australia's growth through trade and investment. It is about prosperity and jobs. Simple to say, but as hard as any job in government. We are pursuing that objective through five different policy "tracks", which are mutually supportive. The domestic track — boosting competitiveness, productivity and growth — is the foundation for all the rest.

We — that is governments and business together — have to create a more competitive economy if we are to overcome Australia's still severe current account deficit and so reduce our foreign debt. The Government has started by moving quickly to get macroeconomic policy back on a responsible course. We aim to get the Budget back to underlying balance by 1997-98, cutting A$ [Australian dollars] 4 billion off the deficit in each of the next two years. We will revitalise and deepen microeconomic reform, which is the key to improving productivity and competitiveness. Our priority areas include labour market reform, the waterfront, telecommunications, transport and energy. We will be working with the States and Territories to accelerate the momentum of competition reform and to cut duplication of functions. The benefits for business will be lower prices and improved levels of service. And as the reforms kick in, productivity and incomes will rise. Industry, including state enterprises, needs the stimulus of competition and it needs to be relieved of unnecessary regulatory burdens and costs. We will be attacking regulatory red tape, and reducing the costs of compliance with the tax system. In all this, we will be working closely with State Governments and business.

The multilateral track works on global market access issues, focusing on the World Trade Organisation and making sure that the rules of world trade meet our interests and are honored by our trading partners. Global forums and rules provide powerful tools for securing better market access. The Uruguay Round for example is expected to generate export gains for Australia of up to $5 billion when all the gains have flowed through. But we will need to be vigilant to ensure that WTO members deliver on their commitments, particularly in agriculture. And of course many barriers to trade remain to be tackled. So it is vital that we and other free traders keep up the momentum of global trade liberalisation. The WTO's two-yearly Ministerial Conferences will be the key strategic opportunities to do that.

The first WTO Ministerial meeting, hosted by Singapore in December, is a major opportunity to push on with comprehensive trade liberalisation. Australia's goals are to prevent any backsliding on Uruguay Round commitments, to push on with negotiations mandated by the Round, and to create momentum for new multilateral liberalisation across the board. On the need for a comprehensive approach, let me say this: the stand-alone sectoral approach to services negotiations since the Uruguay Round was supposed to be a faster way forward. It has so far yielded nothing more than an interim agreement on financial services and an extension of the negotiations on basic telecommunications. That squibbed result just underscores what value there would be in preparing at Singapore for the launch of another Round — a fully comprehensive Round — before the end of the century.

We will also have to look at resolving the place on the WTO agenda of some of the new trade issues, especially investment and competition policy. The new issues are important, but first and foremost the WTO is about trade liberalisation. So I will want to be convinced that they relate to the WTO's core business, and do not distract from it. And I will want to see a clear demonstration of the trade gains to be got by having the WTO take up issues which are already dealt with by other international forums. On trade and labour standards, it is clear to me that the WTO is not the right forum. Where real human rights concerns arise, these should be addressed in UN bodies and in the ILO [International Labor Organization].

There are only seven months left before the Singapore meeting — seven hectic and enormously important months. Within the next five weeks I will be holding talks with my counterparts in Tokyo, Jakarta, Washington and a number of Latin American capitals. I will then be chairing a meeting of the Cairns Group in Cartagena, Columbia. Let's use the next weeks and months to incorporate more specific business views into the Australian strategy for the WTO's future direction.

The multilateral track both builds on and is reinforced by what is happening in APEC, that is in the regional track. One of APEC's most important achievements has in fact been to provide leadership and a demonstration effect for the multilateral system. Looking to the future, WTO Director-General Ruggiero has advocated the theme that the WTO needs to become at least as ambitious as the main regional trade agreements if it is to stay relevant to international trade and business. I agree with him.

Within APEC itself, this year will be one of hard, work. At the Subic Bay APEC Leaders Meeting this November, the Government will be working with our regional partners to put flesh on the bones of Bogor and Osaka. The basic tool here is the individual action plan (or IAP) in which every APEC member sets down how it is going to meet its Bogor commitments. Draft IAPs for 1996 will be tabled later this month, considered by APEC Trade Ministers in July, and submitted in final form to the APEC meeting in Manila in November. The IAP process will be a rolling one, with the 1996 plans being improved in 1997 and so on.

The draft Australian plan is now ready to be tabled at Cebu, following preliminary consultations with industry. There will be further consultations next week, and we will keep in touch with industry throughout the year. Our draft plan is a progressive document. It addresses the key trade liberalisation issues of tariff barriers, non-tariff barriers (of which we have very few) and barriers to investment and trade in services. And it incorporates Government election commitments on microeconomic reform. For example, in the telecommunications and energy sectors, the partial privatisation of Telstra, and coastal cabotage.

Our draft IAP also deals with trade facilitation: for example streamlining customs procedures and standards. One initiative we will pursue actively is the introduction of an APEC Business Travel Card to simplify entry procedures for business travellers. Australia has done a lot to liberalise its market, and we expect our APEC partners to match that. My Department is working with the private sector to draw up detailed market access profiles which we will use to benchmark our partners' IAP commitments. The Government will be using the APEC consultations on IAPs to vigorously pursue Australia's market access priorities to increase opportunities for Australian exporters.

I want to stress that, if we are to meet our APEC objectives, it will be vital to have the sustained, active support of Australian business. The Government already has good links with business, including through the APEC Committee of the Trade Policy Advisory Council (or TPAC). But I want to do more.

We will be setting up an Australian APEC Business Advisory Group. This will complement business input into APEC itself through APEC's own Business Advisory Council, and the Government will shortly announce who will represent Australia on that body. I can assure you that we will give priority to the areas that matter most to Australian business on the APEC agenda — for instance, the liberalisation of minerals, agriculture and services trade, the reduction in high tariffs on industrial products, and progress on harmonisation or mutual recognition of standards in goods and services.

The Government is also working to develop two subregional sets of linkages between the CER [Closer Economic Relations with New Zealand] and on the one hand the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, and on the other MERCOSUR [Southern Cone Common Market] — the Latin American Common Market. Both sets of talks are focused on trade facilitation rather than liberalisation, but they still offer real potential for gains. Their work to make customs processes more transparent, to make it easier to get the facts on standards and qualifications, and to promote trade and investment, will produce direct pay-offs for business.

The new Government's commitment to working more closely with business lies behind our strong emphasis on the bilateral track. The Government will be targeting areas where we can obtain commercial benefits more quickly than we can get them through multilateral or regional forums. For instance, my visit to the Philippines last month achieved a useful breakthrough on quarantine issues for fruit and vegetables.

Our strategy will be to focus on getting better market access and higher market share for key exports in the most dynamic markets. Asia will therefore be our first priority — but not our exclusive focus. For instance the National Trade and Investment Outlook Conference draws participants from all over the world. And my planned visit next month to the United States and Latin America demonstrates that we will be maximising opportunities wherever they occur.

In practical terms, this means Australia — that is, the State and Federal governments in partnership with business — needs to work much more closely together in identifying opportunities, and in active, coordinated pursuit of these opportunities. The fifth and final track is to build on market access work by promoting Australian exports and investment.

The Government will be looking at sharpening the strategic focus of both my Department and Austrade [Australian Trade Commission]. We will keep a particular focus on Asia, and we will be launching several market-based initiatives designed to lift Australia's profile in Asian markets. They include:

— a "Year of South Asia" program, aimed at promoting a stronger image of Australia as a source of advanced manufactures

— and a "Supermarket to Asia" program designed to increase exports of processed food and related goods and services into Asia, especially Japan.

At home, I will be looking at ways to make the Australian Export Awards system more relevant to the business environment of today. Later this year, International Business Week will put on seminars and workshops about the ways and means, benefits and pitfalls of the export business.

And Austrade will be developing further its Regional Export Marketing Program aimed at tapping the export potential of businesses in rural areas. Austrade will also get more involved in assisting Australian companies seeking to invest overseas — where the investment can lead to increased exports or foreign earnings for Australia. This will complement what Austrade already does to promote Australia overseas as an investment location for manufacturing, high-technology and services industries. All this is directed at Austrade's fundamental goal of delivering more effective assistance programs to exporters. Achieving that goal requires active collaboration with chambers of commerce and with industry associations. So I look to the business community to participate actively in these programs so as to develop a successful and profitable export culture.

Working with Business

Let me bring what I have been saying back to this one proposition. All of the five tracks — from WTO negotiations in Geneva to fruit and vegetables in Manila — are about one thing. Expanding opportunities for Australian business to trade and invest profitably overseas. That is why the new Government is putting so much emphasis on invigorating the linkages with the business community. On listening to business, and working with business in practical ways.

I want to hear your views today on how to do this better. To help you focus your thoughts, let me refer to three key areas I am working on. I am looking very closely at how we can use the National Trade Strategy Consultative Process (or NTSCP) to better coordinate Federal, State and business efforts.

I want to use the NTSCP and TPAC to set up a two-way process to better inform Australian business on trade opportunities. The Trade Outcomes and Objectives Statement, which I announced before the election, will draw on the consultative links we already have through the NTSCP, and it will act as a launching pad for a more energetic program of bilateral access negotiations. Finally, I will be involving industry in tackling food market barriers as part of the "Supermarket to Asia" initiative. These three areas are just part of a wide array of consultative mechanisms, including the sectoral groups involved in the WTO and APEC, that help keep government responsive to business thinking. And I am glad to say that business people are not shy about speaking up: the many face-to-face meetings I have, and the many letters I get, all help me keep aware of business realities.

The challenge now is to see if we — both government and business — can make all these mechanisms and contacts work better.

Australia: Ambassadors Protest Abolition of DIFF

BK1605064096 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW in English 16 May 96

[Article by Michael Dwyer: "Scrapping DIFF Draws Backlash From Asia" — received via internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia is facing a damaging backlash from its Asian neighbours over the federal government's plan to scrap the Development Import Finance Facility [DIFF].

Ambassadors from China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam have all made protests to the government about the abolition of DIFF, a scheme that provides soft loans for infrastructure development in Asia.

Australian companies already appear to have lost ground in bidding for a $20 billion [Australian dollars] revamp of the Philippines defence forces, with other significant infrastructure contracts likely to follow.

"This is not only about the projects, but about Asian perceptions of Australia," one senior Asian ambassador in Canberra said yesterday.

The serious damage to Australia's credibility caused by the abolition of DIFF comes despite a concerted bid by the coalition to assure Asian leaders that it is committed to strengthening ties with the region.

Australian business leaders are also angry about the impact of the termination of the DIFF scheme on their commercial relations with Asia. The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is meeting today to organise a strategy on the issue.

But the minister for foreign affairs, Mr. Alexander Downer, is trying to quell the growing controversy over DIFF. He is finalising the terms of reference for the first major review of Australia's overall aid program for more than a decade.

The review will examine the issue of concessional loan schemes. Mr. Downer also has not ruled out the reintroduction of a scheme similar to DIFF as early as 1997-98.

DIFF is a tied-aid scheme under which loans are sourced on the capital markets and then lent to recipient countries at concessional rates.

The DIFF loans are linked to projects that have Australian involvement, which means that Australian business also benefits from the scheme.

While Mr Downer's review could see the creation of a new soft loan scheme, the decision to scrap DIFF appears to have caused major ruptures with the key Asian countries that benefit from the scheme.

One of the largest projects which could be hit by the scrapping of DIFF is a tender from Transfield Defence Systems Pty Ltd to build four search-and-rescue vessels for the Philippines navy worth $60 million.

The Philippines Government is so concerned about the possible collapse of the Transfield bid that it is now reluctant to consider any Australian tenders for its broader $20 billion military revamp.

The Vietnamese Government is also perturbed about the impact of the withdrawal of DIFF support on the $54 million My Thuan bridge project in the Mekong Delta.

Mr Downer said last night the government was "actively pursuing" the future of the My Thuan project, and was continuing to have discussions with Vietnam.

There are 16 DIFF-related projects in Indonesia currently in the pipeline, worth $550 million, with 18 projects worth $140 million in China and seven projects worth $230 million in the Philippines.

The government hopes to save around $120 million a year from the abolition of DIFF, with further savings of around $230 million from the likely scrapping of the Export Market Development Grant program.

Although there are 52 projects currently in the DIFF pipeline, the government has decided that it will only continue with the four projects for which a formal offer of finance has already been made.

It is estimated that local companies have already spent around $70 million on the 52 DIFF-related projects, which would have had a total value of close to $1.2 billion if completed.

A recent AusAID review of DIFF found shows the local business generated by the soft loan scheme is almost five times the original aid expenditure.

The government is hoping that by announcing a major review of Australia's entire aid program it will be able to overcome some of the controversy surrounding its decision to abolish DIFF.

The new review, which will be conducted by a three-person panel under the direction of a business person, is the first close examination of the overall aid program since the Jackson review was completed in the early 1980's.

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is meeting today to coordinate a strategy to deal with the government's decision to scrap the DIFF scheme.

Australia: Cambodia Denies Role in 94 Kidnapping, Murder

LD1605105096 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0700 GMT 16 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cambodia's government has described reports of its alleged involvement in the Khmer Rouge killing of an Australian in 1994 as mad and sad. A statement from the Cambodian Embassy in Canberra said allegations about the government's involvement in the murder of Australian David Wilson were hurtful, unjust and without foundation.

Mr. Wilson's body was found in November 1994 after he was abducted from a train by Khmer Rouge troops in July that year. Two other foreigners, an Englishman and a Frenchman, were also taken from the train and later killed.

The embassy statement rejects reports which suggested that Cambodian government troops had colluded with the Khmer Rouge in the attack on the train.

New Zealand

New Zealand: Landmine Conference Viewed as 'Disappointing'

BK1305162096 (Internet) New Zealand Parliamentary WWW in English 4 May 96

[Press release issued by Douglas Graham, New Zealand minister for disarmament and arms control, on 4 May; place not given: "Revised Restrictions on Landmines Do Not Go Far Enough"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, Hon D.A.M. Graham, today described the outcome of the Inhumane Weapons Convention Review Conference, which ended in Geneva this morning, as disappointing.

However, he says the amended Protocol contains a number of features which should, over time, contribute to alleviating the horrific problems anti-personnel mines are causing worldwide.

The conference, which focussed on revising international legal restrictions on landmines, agreed to extend the restrictions on landmines to civil wars as well as international conflicts. It also agreed to:

— Ban the production and use of non-detectable mines

— Ban transfers of these mines and any others prohibited by the Protocol

— Ban the transfer of any mines to non-state entities

— Ban the transfers to states which are not party to the Protocol, unless they abide by its rules

There are also additional controls on the way in which long-lived mines can be used and limited additional controls on anti-tank mines that are remotely delivered.

Mr Graham said that the New Zealand [NZ] delegation to the Geneva conference stressed NZs unequivocal support for an immediate ban on anti-personnel mines and outlined the NZ Governments recent decision to ban their operational use.

However, the final result in Geneva falls well short of what I would have liked, which is the immediate ban on all anti-personnel landmines, he says.

It is also disappointing that the implementation of some of the new controls will be deferred for nine years. We argued consistently that they should take effect immediately.

Mr Graham says NZ had anticipated that the outcome of the conference would not be satisfactory, but it placed a high priority on keeping the landmines problem to the forefront of international attention.

On that score our efforts have met with reasonable success, he says.

There will now be yearly meetings, where we can keep up the pressure for a ban, and a further Review Conference in 2001.

In the meantime we shall take every opportunity to promote and work with other like-minded countries to achieve a complete ban on all anti-personnel landmines, he says.